

REAPPORTIONMENT PUBLIC HEARING

SEPTEMBER 5, 2001 - 4:00 P.M.

PALM BEACH LAKES COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

3505 SHILOH DRIVE

WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

REPORTED BY:

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DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 2</p> <p>1 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE 2 SENATOR WALTER G. CAMPBELL, JR. 3 SENATOR ANNA P. COWIN 4 SENATOR RON KLEIN 5 SENATOR DURELL PEADEN, JR. 6 SENATOR BILL POSEY 7 SENATOR TOM ROSSIN 8 SENATOR DANIEL WEBSTER 9 REPRESENTATIVE RANDY JOHN BALL 10 REPRESENTATIVE DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL 11 REPRESENTATIVE LARRY CROW 12 REPRESENTATIVE MARIO DIAZ-BALART 13 REPRESENTATIVE MARK G. FLANAGAN 14 REPRESENTATIVE LOIS J. FRANKEL 15 REPRESENTATIVE ANNE M. GANNON 16 REPRESENTATIVE RENE GARCIA 17 REPRESENTATIVE JAMES HARPER, JR. 18 REPRESENTATIVE GAYLE B. HARRELL 19 REPRESENTATIVE EDWARD L. JENNINGS, JR. 20 REPRESENTATIVE BEV KILMER 21 REPRESENTATIVE DICK KRAVITZ 22 REPRESENTATIVE JEFFREY D. KOTTKAMP 23 REPRESENTATIVE SANDRA L. MURMAN 24 REPRESENTATIVE MITCH NEEDELMAN 25 REPRESENTATIVE ELEANOR SOBEL DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 4</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS 2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: We would like to thank everyone for 3 coming here today. I'm Daniel Webster, Senator from 4 District 12, and chairman of the Senate Reapportionment 5 Committee. It is my pleasure to welcome you to this public 6 hearing, one of many we will be holding throughout the 7 state this summer and fall. Let me first explain the 8 procedure we will use throughout these public hearings. 9 This is a public hearing, the sole purpose of which is 10 to hear from the public on matters of redistricting. This 11 is not a committee meeting. We will not be taking 12 legislative action in this or subsequent public hearings. 13 Instead, this is the public's forum where we have the 14 opportunity, you have the opportunity to -- we have the 15 opportunity to receive citizen input about their electoral 16 districts. It is not time for legislative debate. All 17 Representatives and Senators will have numerous 18 opportunities in subsequent committee meetings and 19 committee hearings and floor debates to address all of the 20 members' concerns and wishes. 21 Today, however, is for our constituents. We must not 22 diminish their voice by taking up valuable time today in 23 debate. 24 Following my brief remarks, counsel will give a 25 general overview of legal considerations in redistricting. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 3</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH R. SPRATT 2 REPRESENTATIVE MARK WEISSMAN 3 REPRESENTATIVE DOUG WILES 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>1 Staff will then provide some specific information about the 2 census results in this region and the state. The rest of 3 the time is reserved for you, the citizens. 4 Every ten years after completion of the updated 5 national census, the Constitution requires that the Florida 6 Legislature redraw the boundaries for the Florida House, 7 the Florida Senate and the Congressional, Florida's 8 Congressional districts. 9 The Legislature will take up this task next 10 legislative session which begins January 22nd, 2002 and 11 will end March 22nd, 2002. The districts we draw will 12 first be used in the elections in November of 2002. 13 Redistricting is a central element of our representative 14 democracy. We take this task on with humility and due 15 regard of the importance and difficulty of the job. 16 We are committed that the process will be fair and 17 open and inclusive. These public hearings represent a 18 first crucial step in this process. We appreciate that we 19 are doing the work of the people. We want to hear from you 20 and help you participate in a meaningful way. 21 To encourage public participation, Senate President 22 John McKay and House Speaker Tom Feeney have scheduled at 23 least 22 public hearings throughout the state. All members 24 of the legislative redistricting committee as well as local 25 delegation members have been invited to these public DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 hearings.</p> <p>2 The House and Senate have designed web sites as a tool</p> <p>3 for public input and will broadcast select hearings on</p> <p>4 Florida's public television station. The web addresses for</p> <p>5 the House and Senate legislative redistricting are</p> <p>6 available at the information table. A link also will be</p> <p>7 available from Florida legislative web site.</p> <p>8 The redistricting plan for the State House and State</p> <p>9 Senate will pass in the form of a joint resolution which</p> <p>10 will not be subject to the Governor's veto; however, it</p> <p>11 will be reviewed by the Florida Supreme Court. The plan</p> <p>12 for determining Congressional districts will be -- will not</p> <p>13 be reviewed by the Supreme Court but will be subject to the</p> <p>14 veto or approval of the Governor.</p> <p>15 I encourage everyone to be -- to carefully review the</p> <p>16 2000 census. It is the essential building block on which</p> <p>17 Florida's redistricting plan will be built. The address</p> <p>18 for the United States Census web site is available at the</p> <p>19 information table.</p> <p>20 We will hear -- we are here to listen and consider</p> <p>21 your voice. We encourage each member of the public to</p> <p>22 testify and help us craft your legislative districts. We</p> <p>23 also encourage written submissions in addition to public</p> <p>24 testimony during the public hearing.</p> <p>25 Everyone wishing to speak must fill out a speaker's</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 decision-making of our State Legislature as it proceeds</p> <p>2 with this important task.</p> <p>3 As the chairman has indicated, every ten years the</p> <p>4 task of redistricting and reapportionment falls on the</p> <p>5 Florida Legislature and it is required by both the Florida</p> <p>6 and United States Constitutions. This year because of</p> <p>7 Florida's population increase over the last ten years,</p> <p>8 Florida will have two additional members in the United</p> <p>9 States Congress, a total of 25 seats.</p> <p>10 The State Legislature, therefore, will need to create</p> <p>11 25 separate, contiguous districts that will cover the</p> <p>12 entire state, one for each of those members of Congress.</p> <p>13 The Legislature will also need, as the Chairman has</p> <p>14 indicated, to divide the state into 40 Senate districts and</p> <p>15 120 House of Representative districts. Although if they</p> <p>16 choose, the number of State Senate districts could be</p> <p>17 reduced to as low as 30 and House districts to as low as 80</p> <p>18 under the Constitution.</p> <p>19 The Florida Constitution also requires that the State</p> <p>20 House and Senate districts be consecutively numbered and of</p> <p>21 either contiguous, overlapping or identical territory.</p> <p>22 In Florida the session, as the Chairman has indicated,</p> <p>23 begins January 22nd and ends in March 2002. If somehow the</p> <p>24 session ended without a redistricting plan, the Governor is</p> <p>25 required by the Florida Constitution to reconvene the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 card which are available at the back table, the table when</p> <p>2 you came in, the sign-up table. This is the only way we</p> <p>3 will know who wishes to speak and after hearing who</p> <p>4 actually spoke. We want to hear from as many people as</p> <p>5 possible; therefore, we must limit comments to four minutes</p> <p>6 each.</p> <p>7 On behalf of Senate President John McKay, House</p> <p>8 Speaker Tom Feeney, and members of the Florida Legislature,</p> <p>9 I look forward to working with each of you on this historic</p> <p>10 and important task.</p> <p>11 At this time I'd like to recognize former Senator Jim</p> <p>12 Scott who served during the previous reapportionment</p> <p>13 process, and is the Senate lead counsel on reapportionment</p> <p>14 and redistricting. Senator Scott.</p> <p>15 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members.</p> <p>16 As indicated, I'm special counsel to the Florida Senate for</p> <p>17 redistricting and reapportionment matters. I'm here with</p> <p>18 Miguel DeGrandy, represented by George Meros today, counsel</p> <p>19 for the House. My job today is to give you, and especially</p> <p>20 the members of the public, an overview of the law regarding</p> <p>21 redistricting and reapportionment.</p> <p>22 This presentation is by no means intended to be</p> <p>23 comprehensive or a complete review of all the issues on the</p> <p>24 topic, but is intended to give you an introduction of the</p> <p>25 basic principles and constraints that will guide the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p> <p>1 Legislature in special session, which session shall not</p> <p>2 exceed 30 consecutive days. If the special session ends</p> <p>3 without the adoption of a redistricting plan, the Attorney</p> <p>4 General may ask the Supreme Court to commence</p> <p>5 deliberations, and within 60 days the court must file and</p> <p>6 order setting such plan.</p> <p>7 During the plan -- during the session if plans are</p> <p>8 adopted for reapportionment, those plans are reviewed by</p> <p>9 the Florida Supreme Court and are not subject to</p> <p>10 gubernatorial veto or approval. The Congressional seats,</p> <p>11 however, do go to the Governor and do not go to the Florida</p> <p>12 Supreme Court for review and approval.</p> <p>13 If after the plan is adopted the Supreme Court finds</p> <p>14 that the plan is not valid, then within five days the</p> <p>15 Governor will reconvene the Legislature and the Legislature</p> <p>16 has no more than 15 days to adopt a joint resolution on</p> <p>17 reapportionment.</p> <p>18 In doing redistricting, we have some principles that</p> <p>19 are set forth in the Constitution. The Legislature -- and</p> <p>20 the laws of the United States -- will be guided first of</p> <p>21 all by the principle of one person, one vote. And this</p> <p>22 principle developed from a series of landmark cases by the</p> <p>23 United States Supreme Court in the 1960s. The principle</p> <p>24 stands for the proposition that every person's vote in</p> <p>25 Florida should count as much as everyone else's vote.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p> <p>1 The practice in several states back then was an urban 2 district for the House, for example, might have 250,000 3 people and elect one member to the House; whereas, a rural 4 district would have 75,000 people and elect one member. 5 The Supreme Court considered and concluded that these 6 differences in population resulted in people's votes 7 counting more in areas, in the rural areas of smaller 8 population and that this was illegal. 9 These discrepancies of one person, one vote do not 10 require exact or precise mathematical equality, however. 11 For Congressional districts the courts have instituted -- 12 have had the strictest standard. The rule of thumb, the 13 population among districts for Congress will be 14 substantially less than 1 percent. 15 In other words, if you take the total population, 16 divide it by the number of districts, this result, as you 17 will see later in the presentation, will give an ideal size 18 for a Congressional district. And what comes out, 19 according to the courts, would have to be within 1 percent 20 of this number, well within. For legislative districts the 21 courts have permitted a greater deviation and in some 22 circumstances have accepted up to 10 percent deviation. 23 The Voting Rights Act of 1964 and the Equal Protection 24 Clause of the United States Constitution have become 25 important elements in any legislative deliberation DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p> <p>1 abridging the right to vote on account of race or color or 2 membership in a language minority group. 3 In conclusion, the legal rules regarding redistricting 4 are somewhat complicated and this is a short presentation 5 of these delicate legal issues, some of which have not been 6 fully decided by the courts. 7 Mr. Chairman, and members, I, together with my House 8 colleague, stand ready to provide you with any assistance 9 in this hearing or throughout the process. Thank you. 10 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you, Senator Scott. At this 11 time I'd like to recognize John Guthrie, who is with the 12 Senate redistricting staff and he will share some important 13 data on the 2000 census regarding not only our state but 14 also this particular region. Mr. Guthrie. 15 MR. GUTHRIE: Thank you, Chairman Webster, members of 16 the committee. In order to provide some perspective for 17 the public hearing this afternoon, as Senator Webster said, 18 I would like to review some of the figures both locally and 19 statewide from the census. 20 The key fact that we need to keep in mind when looking 21 at census data for the state of Florida is that Florida is 22 a rapidly growing state. During the past ten years, 23 Florida has grown by more than 3 million people to 16 24 million. That's a percentage growth rate of 23.5 percent. 25 As a result of this large rate of growth, Florida's DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p> <p>1 regarding redistricting. Section 2 of the Voting Rights 2 Act prohibits any practice or procedure, including certain 3 redistricting practices, that impair the ability of a 4 minority community to elect candidates of choice on an 5 equal basis with nonminority voters. 6 Florida is also one of the states that contains 7 certain jurisdictions that are subject to review under 8 Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. Section 5 requires 9 that the covered jurisdiction submit, prior to 10 implementation of any proposed change to their practices or 11 procedures affecting voting, this includes any changes in 12 the redistricting, change of districts, for approval by the 13 Attorney General of the United States or the federal 14 district court of the District of Columbia. This process 15 is known as preclearance. In Florida the covered 16 jurisdictions include Collier, Hardee, Hendry, Hillsborough 17 and Monroe Counties. 18 The vast majority of preclearance requests are made to 19 the Attorney General's Office. The attorney -- 20 preclearance is obtained if they do not, either they 21 approve it within 60 days or if they file no objection 22 within 60 days then the plan can go forward. 23 In any case, the covered jurisdiction bears the burden 24 of demonstrating that the proposed voting change does not 25 have the purpose and will not have the effect of denying or DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 13</p> <p>1 delegation in the United States House of Representatives 2 will increase by two members to a total of 25. 3 The other key fact that we need to observe from the 4 census over the past ten years is that different areas have 5 experienced different rates of growth. Some areas have 6 grown very rapidly. For instance, Flagler County has grown 7 at a rate of almost 74 percent; Sumter County at a rate of 8 69 percent; Collier County at a rate of 65 percent; Wakulla 9 County at a rate of 61 percent; and Osceola County at a 10 rate of 60 percent. At the other end of the spectrum, 11 Monroe County grew at a ten, over the ten-year period at a 12 rate of only 2 percent; Pinellas and Putnam Counties grew 13 at a rate of 8.2 percent; and Wakulla County -- or Gadsden 14 County grew at a rate of 9.7 percent. All other Florida 15 counties grew at a rate of 10 percent or greater. 16 Let's look at the numbers for the local area. In Palm 17 Beach County, the population over the past ten years 18 increased by 31 percent to 1,131,184 people. Palm Beach 19 County is the third largest of Florida's counties, exceeded 20 only by Dade, Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. 21 And that 31 percent, of course, is substantially 22 faster than the state rate, the average rate of growth in 23 the state, which was 23.5 percent. 24 Martin County to our north increased at a rate of 26 25 percent to a total of 126,731 people, and Martin County DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p> <p>1 ranks 29th among Florida's 67 counties.</p> <p>2 As Senator Scott was explaining, the origin of the</p> <p>3 census was for the purpose of providing for equal</p> <p>4 representation. And based on the 2000 census,</p> <p>5 Congressional, Senate and House districts in the state will</p> <p>6 be refashioned in order to provide for one person, one</p> <p>7 vote. Districts that now have substantially too many</p> <p>8 people will need to shrink because they need less</p> <p>9 territory, fewer people, in order to come to equal</p> <p>10 population. On the converse, districts that have</p> <p>11 substantially too few people will need to gain territory in</p> <p>12 order to come up to the appropriate population.</p> <p>13 The average district population for Congressional</p> <p>14 districts based on the '90 census was 562,519 people.</p> <p>15 That's going to increase by 14 percent to almost 640,000</p> <p>16 people based on the 2000 census.</p> <p>17 The average district population for Senate and House</p> <p>18 districts based on the '90 census was 323,000 and 107,000</p> <p>19 people, respectively. And that's going to increase at the</p> <p>20 same rate as the rate of growth in the state, 23.5 percent,</p> <p>21 to 400,000 and 133,000 people, respectively.</p> <p>22 This graphic shows the number of people per district</p> <p>23 in the state of Florida with the 1990 populations shown in</p> <p>24 the aqua color and the 2000 populations shown in the blue</p> <p>25 color. And what we do see from this chart is that the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p> <p>1 What we see is that for Congressional District 16 the</p> <p>2 current population is 119,000 higher than what the</p> <p>3 population needs to be based on the 2000 census. So</p> <p>4 Congressional District 16 will need to lose 120,000 people,</p> <p>5 approximately, in order to come to the equal population</p> <p>6 target.</p> <p>7 On the converse, Congressional District 23 is</p> <p>8 currently underpopulated by 20,529 people, which means that</p> <p>9 district needs to grow in order to reach the district</p> <p>10 target. And we see a similar pattern for Senate districts</p> <p>11 and for House districts in the area.</p> <p>12 All of the information that I have covered this</p> <p>13 afternoon is on the web. As I mentioned, this over, under</p> <p>14 information is on the handouts. I would encourage members</p> <p>15 and the public to become familiar with all of the census</p> <p>16 demographics because that really will be the starting point</p> <p>17 for redistricting in 2001 and 2002.</p> <p>18 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you, Mr. Guthrie.</p> <p>19 Ladies and gentlemen, as I stated earlier, we will be</p> <p>20 using these speaker cards to identify each person. And if</p> <p>21 you will notice in the lower right-hand corner there is a</p> <p>22 number and you will be called in ascending order by number.</p> <p>23 So whoever is next will have a good knowledge of when their</p> <p>24 time is coming.</p> <p>25 If there is anyone who wishes to speak, you must fill</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p> <p>1 proportionate increase in the number of constituents per</p> <p>2 district for Senate and House districts is going to</p> <p>3 increase at a faster rate than the number of constituents</p> <p>4 per district for Congressional districts.</p> <p>5 We have a graphic here that shows the change in</p> <p>6 population density during the past ten years. Areas that</p> <p>7 are indicated in blue are areas where the population</p> <p>8 density grew rapidly. Areas in red are areas where the</p> <p>9 population density actually declined. And what we see from</p> <p>10 this chart is that both Palm Beach and Martin Counties had</p> <p>11 substantial areas where the density grew at a fairly high</p> <p>12 rate.</p> <p>13 The next map shows the same sort of information except</p> <p>14 instead of looking at density it looks at the growth rate</p> <p>15 as a percentage of what the population was in 1990. And,</p> <p>16 again, you see large areas of significant population growth</p> <p>17 particularly in western Palm Beach County.</p> <p>18 Now what do all these changes in population have to</p> <p>19 say about the way that districts will be affected based on</p> <p>20 the 2,000 census? On the tables where the, where people</p> <p>21 checked in this afternoon, we have charts that indicate the</p> <p>22 over- and undercount for Congressional districts, Senate</p> <p>23 districts and House districts. And what I have here is an</p> <p>24 example that shows for the Martin and Palm Beach County</p> <p>25 area the Congressional map.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p> <p>1 out one of these. Remember that in order to let everyone</p> <p>2 speak, we have to limit you to four minutes. And of course</p> <p>3 we welcome any written submissions that you would also wish</p> <p>4 to present. If you have any handouts make sure that we</p> <p>5 receive them. You can lay them on the front there and we</p> <p>6 will enter them into the record.</p> <p>7 So we will start off with No. 1, if you are ready.</p> <p>8 You are recognized.</p> <p>9 MR. MERKL: Good afternoon, Senator, and members. My</p> <p>10 name is Jack Merkl, I'm a citizen candidate for U.S.</p> <p>11 Congress in District 19. I'm still in the testing of the</p> <p>12 water stage. My main purpose today is to give you some</p> <p>13 suggestions to make the playing field more even in District</p> <p>14 19, the district I intend to run in, to make it more fair</p> <p>15 and more competitive. And redistricting of course is one</p> <p>16 key part of that campaign.</p> <p>17 Now before getting into the specifics of Congressional</p> <p>18 District 19, it is useful to take a broader view. And I</p> <p>19 have chosen to take a look at Florida, southern Florida</p> <p>20 from Lake Okeechobee south. You probably have already</p> <p>21 studied the numbers extensively and have noticed that there</p> <p>22 are 6.3 million people in the nine Congressional districts</p> <p>23 from Lake Okeechobee south all the way to the tip of</p> <p>24 Florida.</p> <p>25 Now by coincidence with Mr. Guthrie's numbers that is</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p> <p>1 exactly enough population to support ten Congressional 2 districts where there are today only nine districts. These 3 are the nine districts, the northern border represented by 4 Porter Goss on the west coast and Mark Foley on the east 5 coast and the other seven all south of that. 6 Now to help you follow, I hope you can see that, to 7 help follow my suggestion for remap of the U.S. Congress 8 for South Florida is, Point 1 is to make ten districts out 9 of the existing nine in the area from Lake Okeechobee south 10 to Key West. 11 No. 2 is to keep the same general layout of 12 Congressional districts. I know you are quite familiar 13 that there are some strange-looking shapes. A lot of those 14 shapes are really dictated by the Voting Rights Act of 15 1965, as Mr. Scott summarized earlier. And my practical 16 advice and suggestion is that we keep the general shape and 17 layout of those districts about the same. Of course, some 18 of the boundaries will have to be changed to accommodate 19 those that are overpopulated and those that are 20 underpopulated. And we have to squeeze in one new 21 district. 22 Now my idea for a new district, let's call it District 23 24, Florida has 23 now, is to put the new district into, 24 where else should it be, into the highest, the 25 highest-growth area. And that is the area from western DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p> <p>1 east, which is a highly Democratic district now and has to 2 be continued to be a highly Democratic district under the 3 Voting Rights Act. 4 The result will be about a 10 percentage point spread 5 favoring -- still favoring the Democrat incumbent, but will 6 make for a more level playing field. Thank you very much. 7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 2. 8 MS. BROWN: Good afternoon. My name is Jean Elliott 9 Brown and I have lived in Palm Beach Gardens for eight 10 years. And in that time I have watched Palm Beach County 11 explode with growth. And I have seen how easy it is for 12 our representatives to in effect stop representing the 13 majority of the people in that district. 14 Now political aims notwithstanding, the most important 15 goal for our political system is to fairly represent the 16 people of Florida at all levels of the government. 17 Fairness is the objective way to redistrict. Fairness is 18 putting the needs of the people above the needs of the 19 party. Fairness is drawing the districts in such a way 20 that people of one party affiliation have appropriate 21 representation. 22 Right now, although there is a majority of Democrats 23 registered statewide, the Democrats are vastly 24 underrepresented in our state government. Our districts at 25 every level should be drawn to reflect that more even split DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p> <p>1 Miami-Dade County going across the tip of Florida to 2 include the city of Naples, and that largely unpopulated 3 area south and east of Naples. But it would include the 4 southern part of Collier County and the western part of 5 Dade County. And from the north/south perspective it would 6 run from Key West all the way up to the Broward County 7 line. 8 This has been the fastest growing area in the state 9 and more importantly in my view is I predict it will be the 10 fastest growing state in the next ten years. I think we 11 should be forward looking. It is easy to look at today's 12 situation or the past. I won't go into the reasons for 13 that right now given the time limits. 14 Now as a practical matter, if you put this new 15 district, let's call it 24, into that area, western Dade, 16 eastern Collier County, all the districts north of that 17 will have to inch up a little bit. 18 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Twenty seconds. 19 MR. MERKL: These will be the districts listed here. 20 Finally, to make District 19 more competitive, the 21 district needs to transfer out 161,000 of population. I 22 would suggest moving the southern border of District 19 up 23 to Atlantic Boulevard and carve out all precincts in 24 District 19 that have 80 percent or more Democrat registry 25 and transfer those to District 23, which is just to the DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p> <p>1 between Democrats and Republicans. 2 And although I am honored to be here speaking with you 3 today and I am delighted that you are holding these 4 hearings, it would be better if you could hold them at a 5 time when the thousands of working people could also come 6 and express their feelings. Four o'clock in the afternoon 7 is a tough one for a great many people. 8 And I questioned, by the -- (Applause) -- according to 9 the Sunshine Laws, can citizens attend the redistricting 10 committee meetings up in Tallahassee? And if not, why not? 11 Anybody want to take a shot? 12 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: We are just listening to you. 13 MS. BROWN: I don't get any answers? Well whom can I 14 ask that question of later? Mr. Webster, can I contact 15 you? 16 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: I'm not a lawyer. I think you 17 would have to ask a lawyer. And we have lawyers here that 18 possibly could answer that. 19 MS. BROWN: Great. And then I have one other question 20 which is -- 21 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: We do operate in the sunshine 22 though. 23 MS. BROWN: Good. Well I was hoping if I wanted to 24 come up and watch I could do that. 25 Will you hold hearings after you have drawn up the DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p> <p>1 tentative district lines? And if you can't answer that for 2 me here, who can I ask? I think getting an answer to that, 3 that's going to be a question that a lot of people are 4 going to have. And certainly being able to petition early 5 is good, but being able to petition after you actually know 6 what you are petitioning about would even be better. Who 7 can I find that answer out from? 8 (Pause.) 9 MS. BROWN: Don't everybody leap up at once. Okay. 10 Well in that case thank you very much for your listening 11 skills. 12 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: No. 3, you are recognized. 13 MS. POWELL-CRANEY: Good afternoon, my name is Angela 14 Powell-Craney, and I have been a resident of Palm Beach 15 County for just over 20 years now. And for 17 of those 20 16 years I have been a teacher with the Palm Beach County 17 School District. 18 My career has given me a front row seat to the 19 population explosion here in Palm Beach County. Not only 20 has our population in Palm Beach County grown in number, it 21 has also grown in the richness of its cultural diversity. 22 With these factors in mind, I truly hope that you are 23 guided not only by nonpartisanship, but by fairness to all 24 the people in Palm Beach County as you consider this 25 reapportionment process. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p> <p>1 close community and want to make sure that that 2 relationship is maintained. I know you can do anything 3 with the figures, I have seen them. They are like 4 accountant's figures, you know, you can move them around 5 and whatever. 6 If necessary, we would go to court to make sure that 7 our area is maintained as is. I can assure you if it did 8 come to that, I would have 1,000 people in the courtroom to 9 protect our community. You can be sure of that. 10 While I say this, I am skeptical. You come before us 11 with no tentative plan, or map layout, tentative layout. 12 That's what should have been here so that we can discuss 13 what the thinking is before these sessions. I become 14 suspicious, maybe that's because I am 75 and I have been 15 around the block a few times. I don't like to be that way, 16 but that's the way it is. 17 I believe the kingpins in Tallahassee have already 18 plans to increase their power. It is a helluva thing to 19 say, but I think it is true. They are not leveling with 20 the people. Yes, I'm skeptical and don't like to be. 21 I tell you again, we do not want our community split 22 up. We would like to see a tentative plan before it 23 becomes a reality. 24 Most of us are seniors. Many have fought our wars, I 25 have. Some have lost family and friends in those wars, DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p> <p>1 I feel that it is of the utmost importance for the 2 representatives of Palm Beach County to live in the areas 3 in which the bulk of their constituents live. Only then 4 can they be truly connected to the people that they 5 represent and to the issues which affect them. 6 I thank you for your time and attention this afternoon 7 to all of our concerns. 8 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 4, you are 9 recognized. 10 MR. OSER: No. 4, I feel like I am in a bakery or 11 something. 12 (Laughter.) 13 MR. OSER: Let me say this, let me say I'm going to 14 put my glasses on first. I'm Sam Oser, vice president of 15 the Century Village Democratic Club in West Palm Beach, 16 part of the 86th District. This is very important to us. 17 We are looking for fairness and decency and honesty. 18 We took a beating in the last election, we feel it was 19 a bad count, for whatever the reasons are. Now I can get 20 into that when I have a few hours with you. Our area is 21 basically Democratic. And we have voted Democrats into 22 office. They hold to our ideals and have been loyal to our 23 voters. 24 This may be a threat to those who don't like that. We 25 do not want our district split up in any way. We are a DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p> <p>1 some have been laughed at in the last election because they 2 voted the way they voted. They came in wheelchairs, 3 crutches, being led, and they were laughed at because we 4 made a mistake on the ballot. Some are now dead, others, 5 seniors, I want you to bear this in mind, will be voting 6 their last time in 2002. 7 We are looking for honesty and decency. I don't want 8 to be skeptical. We are proud to look at our flag flying 9 high. Please, we don't want to see it at half-mast. 10 Respect our community. Thank you. 11 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. 12 SENATOR KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just going 13 back to the first lady who spoke, she had some questions. 14 And if -- I guess the answer was you aren't prepared to 15 answer the questions today. There may be other people that 16 raise questions. And is the direction to address them to 17 the counsel for the committee or how would you like to 18 proceed? 19 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Well we are here, this is just one 20 part, one very small part of the total process that we have 21 scheduled. And, therefore, we are not here to answer 22 questions today, we are here to listen to testimony and 23 that's all. That's part of the public input. The more 24 time we take answering questions, the less opportunity we 25 have to hear from people. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p> <p>1 I'm here to get a perspective, a perspective of what 2 you would like to have for your district, and you can tell 3 me that. Those things will be established. I don't set 4 any of the schedules or anything that happens. I'm the 5 chairman of the committee and this is what I have been 6 allowed to do so far, and that's what I intend to do. I'm 7 going to listen to you. And once that's over, and once the 8 public hearings are over, there will be other things that 9 will be settled and decided and noticed.</p> <p>10 SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. Chairman?</p> <p>11 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: As far as answering questions, 12 those questions are somewhat open-ended. I don't know the 13 answer and therefore I'm right now -- I don't have a 14 direction from the President of the Senate or the Speaker 15 of the House or whatever about answering those questions.</p> <p>16 I don't know when we are going to have hearings. 17 Those will be established under rule by the person that you 18 voted for for president, John McKay. And that's his 19 choice.</p> <p>20 SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. Chairman, would you prefer that 21 the people that have these questions address them to the 22 Senate President? Again, we can't stop people from asking 23 questions.</p> <p>24 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: I think they should ask their local 25 Representative or Senator. And if they have questions DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p> <p>1 MS. DUKE: Thank you for listening to me. My name is 2 Mae Duke, I am a resident of Century Village in West Palm 3 Beach, I'm also the president of the United Democratic Club 4 of Century Village.</p> <p>5 I appreciate that you invited us here to present our 6 pleas for our community. And I'm taking this chance to 7 appeal to you, please, do not divide our Village. It is a 8 Village of adult -- it is an adult community that is gated. 9 Their needs and their wants are very similar and they want 10 one district. They are now divided in two and it is an 11 uneven division, and it is a source of confusion when we 12 get new people in. We try very hard to keep them informed 13 in every way, but we appeal to you, do not cut up our 14 Village because we are hardworking people in the community, 15 but we want our needs addressed.</p> <p>16 Thank you for your time.</p> <p>17 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: No. 6.</p> <p>18 MR. BOGORAD: My name is George Bogorad, I live in 19 Century Village. My State Senate District is 35, my State 20 House District is 86, and my U.S. Congressional District is 21 16.</p> <p>22 Century Village seniors are interested in very common 23 issues. Under no circumstances should Century Village, 24 West Palm Beach, be broken up in any fashion whatsoever. 25 This is fair because of our overwhelming senior DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p> <p>1 about how the lines were drawn, they should ask the people 2 that voted for it last time. If they have questions about 3 the way they will be drawn this time, I think that, too, 4 will be left up to their local representatives.</p> <p>5 As far as I'm concerned, as I said initially, this is 6 an open process. We are going to be looking to your 7 Senator and your Representative to help us craft these 8 district lines. And, therefore, if you have questions, 9 direct them to your local representatives. They are the 10 ones that are going to be crafting the districts and they 11 are going to be the ones responsible for the way they look.</p> <p>12 This is going to be a totally open process. And the 13 more open it is, the more input you will have from your 14 elected representatives. And if you appreciate them, if 15 you like them, and you are in contact with them, and you 16 know them, that is the easiest place to get answers. And 17 so I would encourage you to ask your Representative or 18 Senator what problems or what you would like to have done.</p> <p>19 I'm here to get a statewide view and that's all.</p> <p>20 SENATOR KLEIN: Okay. And I would just ask, I guess 21 people should address their questions to their legislator 22 as well as the committee chair and the Senate President or 23 the Speaker and we could try to get some answers that way. 24 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.</p> <p>25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: No. 5. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p> <p>1 circumstance. Thank you.</p> <p>2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 7.</p> <p>3 MS. DOWLING: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, and 4 members of the committee. I am Jean Dowling, treasurer of 5 the Century Village Political Action Committee. It is with 6 great emphasis that I support our elected representative 7 from District 86, Susan Bucher. She has represented our 8 district well and we do not want to see it change. We do 9 not want change because of partisan politics. We do not 10 want change because of some hidden agendas. We do not want 11 change to rid this district of leadership that may 12 challenge majority politics in Tallahassee.</p> <p>13 We do want fairness. We do want our present 14 representative who understands our diverse population of 15 Hispanic, African American, Haitian, Asian, and other 16 groups, who also understand our needs. We do want our 17 present representative, who understands we are poor and 18 rich, we are seniors, youth and all in between. And she 19 works very hard for us. Again, we do not want partisan 20 politics.</p> <p>21 We hope you are listening. We are listening and 22 watching. Thank you.</p> <p>23 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: No. 8.</p> <p>24 MR. SHAPKIN: Good afternoon, thank you, Mr. Chairman, 25 and members of the committee for this time to appeal to DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 30</p> <p>1 you.</p> <p>2 The statement here is a statement of fairness. The</p> <p>3 reapportionment process now underway holds the possibility</p> <p>4 of altering Florida's political landscape for the next</p> <p>5 decade. Redrawing political boundaries based on new</p> <p>6 population data is one of the most important duties of the</p> <p>7 State Legislature. Floridians from all backgrounds and</p> <p>8 geographic areas will be closely watching the proceeding as</p> <p>9 it unfolds.</p> <p>10 As we monitor this process, we would hold the</p> <p>11 Legislatures in Tallahassee to a simple standard. Is their</p> <p>12 plan and the process they are using to shape, to be shaped</p> <p>13 and will it be fair. Is it fair to all the state citizens,</p> <p>14 to members of all racial and ethnic groups, to all</p> <p>15 communities of interest, to all residents of all parts of</p> <p>16 the state regardless of the party affiliation?</p> <p>17 Fairness means allowing the public to have meaningful</p> <p>18 input into the reapportionment process. We wonder if this</p> <p>19 will happen. Fairness means assuring that the public has</p> <p>20 the tools to review and understand the redistricting plans</p> <p>21 and comment on them accordingly and in a timely and</p> <p>22 meaningful fashion. We wonder.</p> <p>23 And fairness means a process and plan that takes into</p> <p>24 consideration the concerns of the state's diverse ethnic</p> <p>25 community, including African American, Haitian, Asian, and</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 32</p> <p>1 direct, meet all legal and Constitutional requirements and</p> <p>2 that they are as compact as possible, considering the</p> <p>3 necessity of protecting voting rights for minorities,</p> <p>4 protecting communities of interest, and respecting</p> <p>5 political subdivisions.</p> <p>6 Finally, we ask that all the legislative actions on</p> <p>7 redistricting reapportionment take place at times and in</p> <p>8 locations that maximize citizen input.</p> <p>9 One last sentence, if I may, as Justice Potter Stewart</p> <p>10 said a half century ago, Fairness is what justice really</p> <p>11 is. In asking for fairness, we are asking nothing more</p> <p>12 than justice and we demand nothing less. And we will</p> <p>13 remember. You have caused us to remember, and we will</p> <p>14 remember at the polls.</p> <p>15 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 9.</p> <p>16 MS. MCCARTY: Mr. Chairman, and members of the</p> <p>17 committee, I'm Mary McCarty. I'm here today as the</p> <p>18 Chairman of the Republican Party of Palm Beach County.</p> <p>19 First of all, I wanted to say how exciting this is for</p> <p>20 those of us that are Republicans in this state because this</p> <p>21 is the first time in modern Florida history that</p> <p>22 Republicans have been in charge of drawing the lines. And</p> <p>23 certainly as we speak of fairness today, this is certainly</p> <p>24 a time I think the Republicans are looking for fairness in</p> <p>25 our opportunity to draw these lines.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 31</p> <p>1 Hispanic communities. Again, we wonder.</p> <p>2 Finally, fairness means listening to the public and</p> <p>3 respecting that sense of communities of interest. It means</p> <p>4 taking the time to understand areas of concern based on</p> <p>5 environmental, educational, social service and other public</p> <p>6 policy concerns.</p> <p>7 We ask that the hearings be held in a more -- in more</p> <p>8 areas so that Floridians do not have to travel over 200</p> <p>9 miles just to have their voices heard. We ask that the</p> <p>10 political subdivisions such as cities and communities be</p> <p>11 considered more strongly in the new proposals. We ask that</p> <p>12 the State Legislature direct the holding of public hearings</p> <p>13 after plans are released so that the public can react to</p> <p>14 actual proposals.</p> <p>15 We ask that sufficient time be provided before any</p> <p>16 legislative action to allow the public to respond to all</p> <p>17 proposals that are to be considered at all legislative</p> <p>18 meetings, including committee meetings and floor votes.</p> <p>19 We ask that no plan --</p> <p>20 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Fifteen seconds, 15 seconds.</p> <p>21 MR. SHAPKIN: -- we ask that no plan be prepared or</p> <p>22 debated until after the full public debate on specific</p> <p>23 guidelines is held and guidelines are adopted and</p> <p>24 published.</p> <p>25 We ask that as a minimum these guidelines provide and</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 33</p> <p>1 I want to compliment you on coming here and around the</p> <p>2 state with really a blank slate for listening to the</p> <p>3 people, to hearing what we have to say before you start</p> <p>4 drawing the lines. Had you come with a tentative plan, the</p> <p>5 cry from a lot of people would have been, You have already</p> <p>6 made your minds up, why did you come and talk to us now?</p> <p>7 So I am very happy that you have come with a blank slate</p> <p>8 for us to give our input today.</p> <p>9 I also want to compliment the leadership for this</p> <p>10 process. This bipartisan committee I am standing in front</p> <p>11 of I think is a testimony to the fairness that has been</p> <p>12 committed to by the leadership, and I want to compliment</p> <p>13 you for that. I want to compliment you for the south</p> <p>14 county hearing that I know Senator Klein fought for and was</p> <p>15 agreed to by the leadership in this county. We desperately</p> <p>16 needed an extra hearing in south county because of the size</p> <p>17 and the interest in this county and I want to thank you for</p> <p>18 allowing us to have that extra hearing.</p> <p>19 I want to compliment you for the availability of</p> <p>20 software at a very cheap price so people can participate in</p> <p>21 the drawing, and also for the web site information that you</p> <p>22 are going to provide the public. This is a much more</p> <p>23 inclusive process than it has ever been in the history of</p> <p>24 this state and I think you ought to be recognized for that</p> <p>25 and you ought to be commended for that.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p> <p>1 Now to get to the matters at hand, ten years ago Palm 2 Beach County, which is a very important county, is a very 3 fast-growing county, and has a large very diverse 4 population was cut up and gerrymandered very badly. We 5 were a donor county to other counties. And what we would 6 like to see and have the opportunity to have districts that 7 have a majority of their population in Palm Beach County. 8 Now, for instance, when we talk about some Senate 9 seats, State Senate seats -- and I have one of my favorite 10 Senators, Senator Pruitt, right in front of me and then 11 also Senator Sanderson that represent us very, very well in 12 Palm Beach County, we want to keep them representing us. 13 But what we would like to see is a look at the coastal area 14 of our county to see if we can eke out another Senate seat 15 in the coastal area of Palm Beach County. And we would 16 like you to look at that and see if that makes some sense. 17 We still want to continue representation by Senators Pruitt 18 and Sanderson, but want to see if we can eke out more of a 19 Palm Beach County based seat on our coast. 20 We also would like to see our significant Hispanic 21 population recognized in the redistricting. We would like 22 to see our African American and our Haitian populations 23 recognized. We have some districts that recognize the 24 African American communities of interest today, we would 25 like to see that preserved, but we don't want to forget the DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p> <p>1 We have three Senators, three Representatives that 2 represent us. 3 That sounds wonderful, except as we organize and we 4 learn more of how our city runs and how we provide services 5 to our community, we become more aware of how many things 6 our old city has worn out or become obsolete, like streets, 7 buildings, lights, facilities, et cetera. 8 We are also aware of how restricted funding is for 9 them and the tax base we currently have is unable to 10 support the necessary services and improvement for these 11 issues. And they are not uncommon in our state; however, 12 we feel it is crucial that we not be divided by so many 13 representatives and that our issues shrink in priority when 14 you do so. 15 We have accepted the responsibility as citizens to 16 support our city and neighbors in their endeavors to 17 improve our community, and we look for you-all to realize 18 the importance of having a louder voice and the benefit of 19 a representative tied in with our issues. 20 I commend everyone that spoke tonight, they all had 21 good points. I'm a working person, as you see, and keeping 22 within the speed limit laws made it here. I hope that the 23 format that you go and to present all of this enables 24 everyone to participate. 25 We have an awful lot to offer in Florida. We have not DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p> <p>1 Hispanic and Haitian population as well as we have a very 2 large amount of them in this county. And we would like you 3 to make sure that you recognize that. 4 As far as the Congressional seats go, we are 5 represented by four very, very good Congressmen. We would 6 like to continue to be represented by four Congressmen. 7 Congressmen Shaw and Foley have represented us very, very 8 well. I think what we would like to see is Congressman 9 Shaw come more into Palm Beach County, more into the Boca 10 Raton area. We think there are some opportunities there 11 for him and maybe cut off his Dade County participation 12 because really -- 13 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Ten seconds. 14 MS. MCCARTY: -- we think the communities of interest 15 between Broward and Palm Beach are closer than they are 16 with Dade and Palm Beach. 17 So thank you very much for having me here today and I 18 look forward to your plans as you draw them. Thank you. 19 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 10, No. 10. 20 MS. BURNS: Hello, I'm Nadine Burns and I am a citizen 21 of the small town of Lake Worth. And I say "small town" 22 because we are 5 square miles. 23 For people in my neighborhood, and I am the president 24 of our neighborhood association, sometimes we feel like we 25 are a much bigger city, that we must be 20 square miles. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p> <p>1 only grown in population, I think we have grown in 2 commitment to our community. So please give us an 3 opportunity to speak and to be heard. Thank you. 4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 11. 5 MR. MARKS: Mr. Chairman, commission, my name is Don 6 Marks. Obviously I'm unprepared, I'm representing the 7 Justin Marks Foundation. 8 To tell you briefly what happened, three years ago 9 Palm Beach County lost 30 kids. At that point my son was 10 one of them. At that point I turned to our legislators and 11 I didn't know where to go. The closest one was Sharon 12 Merchant's office. She wasn't my area, but nobody knew, my 13 lawyers, nobody knew who our representatives were. 14 My Senator was Senator Geller, he lives in Hallandale. 15 He had no idea what was going on in Palm Beach County. I 16 battled for three years. And with the help of my favorite 17 Senator, Senator Klein -- you have got input from Mary and 18 so I thought I would use Senator Klein -- we got something 19 accomplished. 20 But it is very important to -- and also I live in 21 Wellington. In Wellington I have two Senators. If you go 22 one, you know, across the street you are in Senator 23 Rossin's area, and in this one you are Senator Geller's 24 area. Nobody really knows where they are. 25 We need our legislators close. They should live in DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p> <p>1 Palm Beach County not, you know, Martin County or whatever. 2 You can't get ahold of them. When you need something done, 3 you need to get it done quick and they have to know what's 4 going on. 5 I am really kind of unprepared but I always kind of 6 shoot like this, you know, letters or whatever. We need 7 the district to live in Palm Beach County so they can 8 represent the people the way it should be represented and 9 they have to know what's going on. 10 I guess that's all I have to say. Thank you. 11 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 12, No. 12. 12 MS. LOWENDORF: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, and 13 members of the committee. My name is Carol Anne Lowendorf 14 and I was born and continue to reside in West Palm Beach 15 where I am registered to vote. I am also a member of the 16 American Federation of State, County, and Municipal 17 Employees and president of AFSCME Local 3041. 18 I want to thank the committee for holding these public 19 hearings. I would like, however, to note that the vast 20 majority of your hearings are being held during the middle 21 of the day where it is not convenient for the working 22 public, which includes most of our membership, to attend. 23 I am going to ask that as you move this process forward you 24 strive to make it more open and more accessible and that 25 all the information be easily available to the public. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p> <p>1 have -- they must have shared representation. 2 Palm Beach County also deserves to have at least one 3 member of Congress who resides in Palm Beach County. The 4 current makeup of this district not only holds together 5 communities of interest of Palm Beach County, but they must 6 make sure that these districts are contiguous, compact and 7 that they represent political lines by being contained only 8 within Palm Beach County. 9 I am also a little disappointed that there are going 10 to be no public hearings scheduled after the maps are 11 drawn. That only hearings are going to be in Tallahassee. 12 I mean, that there are going to be no regional meetings. 13 Very few working men and women in Florida will be able to 14 travel to Tallahassee in order to attend these meetings. 15 For the record, and to be inclusive, I really feel 16 that it would only be fair that the joint committee should 17 schedule some of these regional meetings after the maps are 18 finalized for public comment out in the different regions 19 and districts. And thank you very much for allowing me to 20 speak before you. 21 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: No. 13. 22 MS. BOLTON: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair, and the 23 honorable delegation. I want to thank you so much for 24 giving us the opportunity to express our opinions about 25 this very important redistricting we are about to engage DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p> <p>1 Since I have lived in Florida all of my life and was 2 born in West Palm, I have seen firsthand the explosive 3 growth that we have had in Florida and how much it has 4 changed as we have gone on. And I am really concerned that 5 the most accurate census data be used during the 6 redistricting process. News reports have indicated that 7 over 200,000 Floridians were missed on the 2000 census. 8 And we know that a lot of the minority groups were 9 disproportionately represented in this undercount. 10 Since Florida was one of the, one of only four states 11 to not provide precinct-level data to the census bureau, I 12 would suggest that to compensate for these possible 13 attendant problems the Legislature consider utilizing 14 adjusted census data. And that would be more 15 representative of the minority populations. We do not want 16 you to draw lines to chop up our districts to fit some 17 special agenda. We just want a fair process and a fair 18 outcome of the redistricting process. 19 I would also hope that as the Legislature begins to 20 draw -- the redrawing the process, that you would honor 21 traditional redistricting principles such as keeping 22 together communities of interest. It is very important to 23 keep communities that share interests together for the 24 purpose of representation. We have huge numbers of 25 retirees and seniors who live in districts, and they DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p> <p>1 in. I am Linda Bolton from the village of Wellington. I 2 sit on the village council. And we are faced with many, 3 many varied challenges for which we need help. 4 Challenges such as, we have phosphorous removal 5 issues, we have growth management issues, we need our 6 legislators to stand with us and tall to support school 7 concurrency. But when we go to our next level of 8 government it is difficult for us to know who to talk to 9 and who is interested in Wellington. 10 Just ten years ago Wellington had 20,000 people. It 11 was just another area on the Palm Beach County map of an 12 unincorporated area. Five years ago, though, we 13 incorporated and we had 28,000 people. So in that brief 14 time we went from 20- to 28-. Now this year's census has 15 shown that we have grown to 40,000 people. And with the 16 annexation plans that we have as well as just our 17 development plans that are in the pipeline, we may be in 18 fact the largest municipality in the county by the next 19 census. And that could be 60,000 people. 20 So what I am here to ask you is to consider Wellington 21 as a community of interest. We are now bifurcated, we are 22 divided, we don't have any unified or consolidated 23 representation. As we grow, and we may be the fastest 24 growing town in Palm Beach County, perhaps the state, I 25 will ask that you consider Wellington as a community of DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 42</p> <p>1 shared interests. We have equestrians, we have a new 2 shopping mall coming next month, and we have the people who 3 have been in town with us all these years. 4 So we have a diverse and unique community, but one 5 which does need to stay together in order to have its 6 balance. As I was preparing today for today's remarks I 7 thought, how can I make a point with you folks that will 8 help you remember Wellington when the subject comes up with 9 all the meetings that you have on your schedule. And I 10 thought, well, maybe because you are politicians there has 11 to be something in it for everybody. So let me try this 12 one out on you. 13 Wellington is an area of mostly registered 14 Republicans; however, in the last election they voted 15 Democratic. So there is something here for both of you. 16 So as you -- 17 (Laughter.) 18 MS. BOLTON: -- so as you think about -- when you 19 think about Wellington, think about keeping us together. 20 We have so many speakers here who have talked about, well, 21 don't take us apart. I am asking you to put us together. 22 Put us together for Congressional legislation, put us 23 together for House and Senate legislation, put us together, 24 and that's how we are going to be most effective. 25 Thank you so much. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 44</p> <p>1 obligation. The ideals of our Constitution expressed from 2 the very first words, "We, the people," speaks of 3 representation. 4 That is what redistricting is, a process that makes 5 our democracy what it is. Representative. Think about how 6 wonderful this process is. Every voter gets an equal crack 7 at the system, every representative has the same numeric 8 duty, but that is maybe the easiest part of it. The rest 9 of the story is one that shows at every turn somebody's ox 10 is getting gored. In reality, no process is more political 11 in the negative sense of the word than this one. 12 It is understandable. You are bound to protect the 13 incumbent, but what if the incumbent is of another party? 14 You are bound to protect the integrity of particular group 15 interests. How do you know if Hispanics and Jews, African 16 Americans and Haitians, Asians and Russians have similar 17 concerns? You are bound to create districts that have 18 geographic integrity, but does it really matter if this 19 block is over there, if the census tract is over here or 20 some county rationalized into the map? And what of those 21 natural barriers, a canal, a lake, a river? The answer is, 22 yes, of course it matters. 23 The reason it matters is the process. The reason it 24 matters is that you are rerouting democracy's lifeblood 25 into tender and often transplanted arteries and veins that DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 43</p> <p>1 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 14. 2 MR. AROJ: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the 3 panel, my name is David Aroj, I live in Lake Worth. I'm 4 secretary for an Argentinian organization and public 5 relations man for the newly-formed Hispanic Alliance, but I 6 am really representing here the American Jewish 7 Communities, Palm Beach County chapter. We welcome you to 8 south Palm Beach County. 9 The American Jewish committee is the nation's oldest 10 human relations agency now celebrating its 96th anniversary 11 in Palm Beach County. Its presence dates from 1957, and we 12 service actually north to Martin and St. Lucie Counties. 13 Our mission nationally and locally is to protect the 14 religious and civil rights of Jews and others here and 15 abroad. 16 There is no immigrant group in America that is more 17 passionate about the democracy process than the American 18 Jewish citizens. Thus, whether it is the Constitution of 19 the United States, the Constitution of the Sunshine State, 20 or public school system, or other key elements of our great 21 republic, the American Jewish Community is there to fight 22 for protecting the nation's ideals and the rights of its 23 citizens. 24 Redistricting goes to the heart of democracy. You are 25 really shouldering in this process a lofty but weighty DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 45</p> <p>1 will leak or could leak or even rupture. 2 The reason it matters is because someday you, ladies 3 and gentlemen, will say to your children and grandchildren, 4 I sat in the legislative body -- 5 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Ten seconds. 6 MR. AROJ: -- of one of the nation's great states and 7 produced a document that caused our Founding Fathers 8 watching the process to nod in assent and say, Well done, 9 fellow Americans, well done. Thank you very much. 10 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 15. 11 MR. EGLY: Good afternoon, I'm Joe Egly, City 12 Commissioner, Lake Worth. 13 And unlike some of the speakers today we are looking 14 for change. Currently, as you heard, Lake Worth is 5.5 15 square miles with a population of about 35,000 people. 16 Currently we are represented by six legislators with Mandy 17 Dawson to the south some 40 miles away in Fort Lauderdale, 18 and Ken Pruitt to the north in St. Lucie County some 60 19 miles away. We have Senator Klein, we have Bill Andrews, 20 Susan Bucher, and Jeff Atwater representing us. 21 What we are asking for today is to consider and give 22 us the opportunity to have our own district and our own 23 representation. I have brought forward a letter, a 24 resolution from our city commission, which I guess I'll 25 leave up here on the table, asking you to give us DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

1 representation, not only Lake Worth but the surrounding
2 local communities that are in the central Palm Beach County
3 area. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 16 is withdrawn,
5 No. 17.

6 MR. SANTO: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my
7 name is William Santo. I'm the vice president of the Lake
8 Worth West Democratic Club, and I want to discuss something
9 that bothers me very much.

10 In the recent issue of the Palm Beach Post, it was
11 reported that there are approximately 3.6 million
12 registered Democrats in Palm Beach County. I'm sorry, the
13 number is 3.9 million registered Democrats in the state of
14 Florida. There is -- the number of Republicans is 3.4. So
15 actually there is a greater number of registered Democrats
16 in Palm Beach County, in Florida, than there are
17 Republicans.

18 In the recent election we had in the year 2000, for
19 the presidential election, the turnout for voters was
20 almost equal. We had almost an equal number of Democrats
21 coming out to vote as it was Republicans. These numbers
22 would indicate that there is a great unbalance in the
23 representation that we have in the State Legislature, and
24 in the United States House of Representatives.

25 The current makeup of the state of Florida's House of
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1 Representatives is 77 Republicans and 43 Democrats. That
2 means there is a majority, that the Republicans have a
3 majority of 63 percent of the total membership of the
4 Florida House of Representatives.

5 In the Florida Senate, there are 25 Republicans and 15
6 Democrats. Again, the Republicans have approximately
7 64 percent of the total representation.

8 In the United States House of Representatives, the
9 Republicans have 17 seats and the Democrats have 8. And
10 that is a -- 68 percent of the seats of the Florida
11 delegation to the United States House of Representatives,
12 68 percent.

13 It seems to me that there is a great inequity in these
14 numbers. It seems to me that in a two democratic society
15 there should be some equality in the representation where
16 there is such close numbers of Republicans and Democrats
17 registered in the state of Florida.

18 I am requesting that when you people make the decision
19 to form new electoral districts you take into consideration
20 that the ideal that we are going to look forward to is
21 seeing an almost equal number of representatives in the
22 State House and the United States Congress and the House of
23 Representatives.

24 If we see in the election of 2001 that the present
25 unbalance of representation in the Florida Legislature and
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1 in the United States House of Representatives is as it is
2 now, we would say that you guys failed your job. You
3 didn't do the thing that was supposed to be done --

4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Twenty seconds.

5 MR. SANTO: -- you are not representing the people,
6 and you are not forming a democratic society where each
7 vote really counts.

8 What is my main concern? My main concern is that the
9 present makeup of the Florida Legislature is predominantly
10 Republican controlled. Our Governor is a Republican. My
11 fear is that when you guys have got to come up to make a
12 decision on redistricting you are going to favor the
13 redistricting to favor your own party. And that all that's
14 going to do is exacerbate the situation and make it even
15 worse than it is now.

16 Again, we are going to judge the success of your
17 efforts to redistrict by the representation we see in the
18 State Legislature and in the United States House of
19 Representatives. If we see that there is a more equitable
20 distribution --

21 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. We need
22 to go on. We have got four minutes and we have given you a
23 little bit more time.

24 MR. SANTO: Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: No. 17 -- 18, I'm sorry.
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1 MR. GELFAND: Good evening, Mr. Chair, honorable
2 committee members. My name is Michael Gelfand, I've been a
3 voter for over 20 years. For a young guy like me, that's a
4 long time. I'm a father of public school students and a
5 small business owner here in West Palm Beach, and I live in
6 south county.

7 My question, and as I came up here, I hoped to make my
8 entry fast for everyone to move things along, but as I came
9 up here I looked everyone in the eye and you are all
10 starting to glaze now and you are having the same question
11 that I had, what is my purpose here? When I have sat on
12 committees, when I have appeared before committees, there
13 is always a purpose. Generally, there is fact-finding or
14 to comment on a proposal. What facts are you looking for?

15 We like to vote. I went to school in Chicago. We had
16 a saying up there which was, Vote early, vote often. I
17 don't know if we want that as a fact-finding.

18 I think the first fact we want is Commissioner McCarty
19 wants fairness, but fairness does not equal payback. And
20 that is the message that all of us are getting from
21 Tallahassee is that what is going to be called fairness up
22 there is going to be payback for the rest of the state. If
23 we want one person, one vote, let's avoid the undercount
24 problem, let's have everyone counted.

25 And also, we need to encourage people to be involved.
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1 You know that, as people who need to be elected. And we
2 need compact districts so where I live we don't have three
3 Congress people within a 1 mile area, or four State
4 Representatives.

5 I am disappointed that we don't have a proposal here
6 today. Traditionally we speak on proposals. I came
7 directly from the Metropolitan Planning Organization
8 meeting just a few blocks down. When I walked in here I
9 got a stack of papers. When I walked in there I had one
10 pamphlet and it provided nice maps as to what their plans
11 were going to be and they encourage public discussion.

12 Where are the maps that the news media have been
13 talking about that the folks in Tallahassee have been
14 working on but that we haven't seen? With due respect to
15 the Chair, I do not think that your committee should look
16 to one person as the President of the Senate or the Speaker
17 of the House to say how you will be making your decisions.
18 I think what you need to do is put this on television, have
19 this in the sunshine. The state of Florida was a leader in
20 public governance. It can be a leader throughout the
21 country again if we do what is right and if we do it in the
22 sunshine.

23 Make the decision. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 19.

25 MS. KELLY: Hi, I'm Katherine Kelly, I live in Palm
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1 MR. DRAYTON: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, and
2 committee. My name is Jim Drayton.

3 And I am rather disappointed that the meeting was
4 being called at 4:00 in the afternoon. And as many of the
5 people have said before me, that's a time when most people
6 are working. I'm sure that all of the politicians who are
7 here would not have called a campaign address or a campaign
8 meeting at 4:00 in the afternoon. You would have waited
9 until you could have gotten to the majority of the people.
10 And in a sense that shows contempt for the constituency.

11 I hope that the committee has learned something from
12 the last time that we reapportioned. The African American
13 community had to go to court in order to be assured of
14 equity in the process. And we have heard a lot about
15 fairness here, but I think a lot of people question whether
16 there will be fairness or whether there is fairness. And I
17 think that the process is being called into question
18 because of the manner in which we have gone so far.

19 The Chair says that this is the initial thing, but we
20 are here and each person is given four minutes to speak,
21 but on what? Given no information, given no idea what the
22 agenda is. We know what the topic is, but we don't know
23 what the agenda is.

24 And there is one thing that certainly bothers me. I
25 read in the Palm Beach Post where one person, my neighbor
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1 Beach, I'm Democratic State Committeewoman, and I am
2 Legislative Director of Florida NOW.

3 I care. And I know all of you do and I know you are
4 here because you represent the people. And that's what I
5 ask of you. I didn't prepare a speech, maybe I should
6 have, but I didn't. So I'm just going to speak to you from
7 my heart.

8 The people need to feel that they have been
9 represented. We have been through an occurrence where the
10 people -- many of the people feel their votes are not
11 counted. And that's tragic. And I never want to see that
12 happen again. So what we really need to do in this
13 country, in this state, in this county, is make people feel
14 that they matter. That actually people care what the
15 voters want and need.

16 And so that's what I am -- I am simply asking you for
17 justice and for fairness. It would be great if you could
18 down the line a bit throughout the process or later in the
19 process have some regional hearings like you have heard
20 about, spoken about today. Then people would feel they
21 have been included. And that's what people really need,
22 they need to feel that they are included in this government
23 and this democracy.

24 That's all I have to say to you. Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 20.
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1 in fact, has filed to run in another district in which it
2 is not our district. And I'm wondering if that neighbor
3 knows something that I don't know or if there is some
4 information floating around out here that would give
5 somebody enough nerve to file to run in another district
6 when they don't live there. Some people are saying that
7 the deal is done. I should hope not.

8 The state of Florida has been in the spotlight
9 recently for the manner in which we handled the last
10 election. This gives us an opportunity to show and to
11 demonstrate that the state of Florida can do things
12 properly, can do things fairly, and will do it that way.
13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 21.

15 MS. RICCIO: Good afternoon, honorable members, I am
16 Penny Riccio, a resident and a politically-involved
17 individual of the Palm Beach County western community known
18 as The Acreage.

19 I have had the privilege to work for the United States
20 Department of Commerce census in 1990 as well as 2000, a
21 huge undertaking gathering far-reaching statistical data,
22 but very important to determining how legislative
23 boundaries should be drawn, redrawn every ten years. I am
24 very pleased to be a part of that process.

25 I am speaking as a member of The Acreage Landowners
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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 54</p> <p>1 Association, and with their permission I speak for 2 government representatives Jim Green, River Walk, Robert 3 White, Andros Isle, and Jerry Greenfield Ibis Golf and 4 Country Club. 5 In considering boundaries for Florida State House seat 6 84, and Florida Senate seat 35, I present you to an option: 7 A new district be cut for the Palm Beach County western 8 communities. Its southern boundary should be Lake Worth 9 Road, its eastern boundary, Jog Road, its northern 10 boundary, Beeline Highway, also known as State Road 710, at 11 the intersection of Seminole Pratt Whitney Road, its 12 western boundary should be Lake Okeechobee and beyond. 13 This western community district will include but not 14 be limited to the entire municipalities of Wellington, 15 Royal Palm Beach, the entire unincorporated areas of 16 Loxahatchee, Loxahatchee Groves, and The Acreage, and the 17 PUDs of River Walk, Andros Isle, Bay Winds, Ibis, et al. 18 I want to thank all members of the reapportionment 19 committee, be you Democrat or Republican, for extending to 20 your constituents the opportunity to participate and to 21 speak with you today. From my heart, I humbly thank you. 22 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 22. 23 MS. HUCKSHORN: Mr. Chairman, and members, thank you 24 for the opportunity to be here. I am Carolyn Huckshorn, I 25 am speaking as a 40-year resident of Palm Beach County. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 56</p> <p>1 And in that capacity I work with a very large grassroots 2 network. These are people from every political persuasion. 3 And they -- their political voices are very, very important 4 to them. 5 You have the power to ensure that voters in Palm Beach 6 County have a political voice, you have the power to be 7 fair. And I thank you very much. 8 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 23. 9 MR. FRANSETTA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have a 10 challenge before us, and I would hope that the political 11 challenge on the part of some of the elected officials 12 isn't to take their own best interests and make it appear 13 as if it is our, the people's, best interests. Our 14 challenge is to take what is truly the people's best 15 interests and hope that you will embrace it and have it 16 appear as if it is also your best interests. And that is 17 quite a challenge, I might say. 18 To have a comfort level we do need to have an 19 awareness of what is coming down, what is being proposed. 20 We know what we have read in the paper, we know what the 21 suppositions are, we know what the threats of paybacks are. 22 But I might add, if the Democrats who have done the 23 redistricting in the past have done such a bad job, how in 24 the heck did so many Republicans get elected? 25 So I think there must have been a profound awareness DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p> <p>1 And excellent statements have been made and I totally 2 agree. Let's be inclusive, let's make the information 3 available perhaps on television, video or whatever. But 4 thank you for being here and for providing us the 5 opportunity. 6 My concern, I have lived here for years and watched 7 and observed previous redistrictings and the problems. And 8 it is very, very tough, and I would never anticipate that 9 there will not be changes. It is not a simple process, it 10 is a tough process. And we all have to acknowledge that it 11 is certainly a political process. 12 But I think it is critical, and I want to speak about 13 Congressional districts, that we have Congressional 14 districts in Palm Beach County where we are represented by 15 two members, two Congressmen who actually live here in Palm 16 Beach County. 17 And I'm speaking of Congressional District 19 and 18 Congressional District 16. I think this is very, very 19 important for this large, robust, volatile county. As you 20 deliberate the allocation of political power, that please 21 also consider that you will maintain, try to maintain 22 communities of interest as much as possible. It may be 23 very difficult keeping districts lines intact. 24 Some of you know me as the director of public affairs 25 for Planned Parenthood of Palm Beach and Treasure Coast. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p> <p>1 of fairness. If that same semblance of integrity and 2 fairness were it to prevail, and were I able to say I'm not 3 going to believe what I see in the papers, and that what 4 you are advocating is going to be fair, then I think you 5 would assure us that more Democrats would be elected in the 6 future and we would have a better balance. 7 Now that is being a little naive, I would think, and I 8 don't believe that any one of you would tell me that that 9 is reality. But sometimes an open process is like a tree 10 that falls in the forest. And I remember that from my 11 youth. When I heard it in school the teacher was 12 explaining, if no one hears it, there was no sound. 13 So when we are having an open process with no dialogue 14 back and forth and we don't know what we are playing into, 15 we can only guess what you are up to, and we know what we 16 read in the papers, and we want to be of a mind that we can 17 say, that's not true, that's not really what you are up to, 18 then we can appeal to your fairness. 19 And I would ask that when we do this, what we have to 20 do is to look at areas of common interest, and that's been 21 expressed throughout the fabric of what has come at you 22 prior, in the communities, in the developments where people 23 live. And if you look at a map and look at the things and 24 look at the proposals where people want to carve out 25 districts, the political interests are not going to serve DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

1 the common interests. And I would ask that you do the
2 people's business and do it in a fair and just manner.
3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 24.

5 MR. NEWELL: Good evening. Thank you, members and
6 staff, for the reapportionment meeting here in Palm Beach
7 County. I'm Commissioner Warren Newell, Chairman of the
8 County Commission here in Palm Beach County.

9 And I also want to especially thank the Senate and
10 House Chairs, Senator Webster and Representative Byrd, for
11 again being here. And also I want to thank them for
12 helping set up the meeting tomorrow in south county. And,
13 Senator Klein, I saw you somewhere, thank you also for
14 helping out in south county.

15 Reapportionment members, Palm Beach County
16 Representatives Andrews, Machek, Mack, Senators Dawson,
17 Geller, Klein, Pruitt and Sanderson also thank you for your
18 help in Palm Beach County.

19 We have grown here in Palm Beach County, 1.1 million
20 people. When I was a little kid growing up here in Palm
21 Beach County, I'm a third generation native from West Palm
22 Beach, things have changed dramatically. Diverse
23 population, the wealthiest in the coast and some of the
24 poorest areas in the west. We have some of the largest
25 rural areas. In fact, we are the largest rural area in the
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1 state.

2 Representative Machek, very close friend, represents
3 that rural area sometimes and helps us out on a lot of
4 issues out there.

5 Presently we have ten members of the House, as you
6 know, six members of the Senate. We have been very
7 fortunate to have some excellent representation here in
8 Palm Beach County. But reapportionment is very important
9 to us for many, many reasons. And just on July 24th, Palm
10 Beach County did pass a resolution regarding the
11 reapportionment, and that has been provided to your staff
12 and provided to each one of you after the meeting.

13 And basically what the reapportionment plan that we
14 are hoping to help with is providing Palm Beach County
15 residents the assistance of having the Senators and
16 Representatives live in Palm Beach County. And also to
17 compact the districts, the Senate and the House, as much as
18 possible.

19 As an elected official, my third term, I realize how
20 difficult it is for the changing of districts. Palm Beach
21 County is going through the same thing right now. My first
22 time doing that, and not an easy time, but we will get
23 through it.

24 I just want to say again very clearly and want to
25 thank everybody because I personally and our other fellow
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1 commissioners have had a great working relationship with
2 our local delegation, Representative Atwater, Senator Klein
3 is our representation who has been leading the Legislature
4 from Palm Beach County for the last two years.

5 We appreciate your help and look forward to working
6 with each one of you on this important, important issue.
7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 25.

9 MR. ROBINSON: My name is Herman Robinson, and I'm
10 from Lake Worth. And I want to ask you to not just
11 consider one man, one vote but representation. People have
12 mentioned they don't know who their representatives are and
13 I have to question whether our representatives know who
14 they are representing. I ask you to please have the
15 courage to represent the communities geographically. Don't
16 just consider your party, but represent all the
17 communities. If you are good, you will get elected. And
18 have the courage and sensibility to do it geographically,
19 to represent people and not parties. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Okay, members, and
21 ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to take a five-minute break
22 for our court reporter. So don't go too far because it is
23 kind of crowded up here, but we will take a five-minute
24 break.

25 (Brief recess.)

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1 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Okay, we are ready to take No. 26.
2 No. 26. Okay, we have our next presenter, if everyone
3 could give attention to our next presenter, please. If you
4 have conversations and you are standing up, please take
5 them outside. We want to give every attention to the
6 person speaking.

7 MR. MURPHY: Chairman, and members of the committee,
8 my name is Bill Murphy, I live in Boca Raton on 21st Lane,
9 which is the most southerly street bordering Palm Beach
10 County and Broward County. It is on the Hillsborough
11 Canal.

12 Ten years ago with redistricting, I all of a sudden
13 was in a Broward County representative situation. And I
14 had some concern about this, but as I found out it didn't
15 matter at all. My legislator and Senator were very
16 receptive to any time I called to always return my calls,
17 and it still stands the same today.

18 Having everything within a county would be nice, but
19 with the reality of it all, I doubt it can happen. And I
20 just want to, since this is a minor issue, I believe, than
21 what I have been listening to it -- it was of no concern to
22 me over the last ten years as soon as I made some calls and
23 found I was represented.

24 And I know that my legislator and my Senator today in
25 District 31 on the Senator side and 91 on the legislative
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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 62</p> <p>1 side maintain phone numbers and 800 fax numbers to keep in 2 contact with their constituents, if they would like to 3 reach them. Thank you. 4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 27. 5 MR. SALDANA: Hi, my name is Henry Saldana, and I 6 represent the Latino Leadership Institute. We are a 7 leadership development, advocacy, nonprofit, nonpartisan 8 group. 9 And what I am here to say is the changing face of 10 America raises important questions throughout our society, 11 especially in politics, which leads us to our very next 12 question or questions rather. Are minorities fairly 13 represented at the levels of politics or all levels of 14 politics? Do we have an equal voice and equal opportunity 15 to elect representatives who consider our needs and 16 interests? 17 The process of redistricting will determine how our 18 local schools, city commission and State Legislature, and 19 even Congressional districts are drawn. How are our 20 communities participating? How can we ensure that our 21 interests are being heard and represented by our elected 22 officials? How can we ensure that the voting strength of 23 our communities is not weakened? The only way to 24 accomplish this is to ensure a fair and equitable 25 redistricting process. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 64</p> <p>1 District No. 86. This is the State Representative Susan 2 Bucher's district. The elected official in this district 3 is presently the first Hispanic State Representative 4 elected official in Palm Beach County and we are determined 5 to protect the district based on the redistricting 6 principles previously mentioned. 7 Protection of this district will prevent the 8 commission from Constitutional attack. It will assure our 9 community of a fair and equitable redistricting process, as 10 (inaudible) commission for redistricting for the state of 11 Florida. 12 We are presently working with a group of 13 community-based organizations throughout the state of 14 Florida in addition to other organizations at the state 15 level, and the federal level, rather. Some of these are 16 Hispanic, a leadership institute out of Chicago, a voter 17 registration organization out of Texas, the 18 Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund out of 19 California, and the Puerto Rican Legal Fund based out of 20 New York. 21 We, meaning our redistricting committee, which 22 consists of representatives from the Jewish, African 23 American, Haitian and Hispanic communities want to be able 24 to participate in the final decisions of the redistricting 25 process as it affects Palm Beach, the Hispanic/Latino DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 63</p> <p>1 A Latino issues forum, a California-based policy and 2 advocacy organization, showed that when it comes to 3 Hispanics and Latinos there are different motivators that 4 impact the decision-making and how they vote. Number one 5 is the urging of the Latino leaders, and number two, the 6 issues relevant to Latinos being discussed throughout the 7 election. The development of bilingual material is also 8 important. 9 The Latino vote has dramatically changed Florida 10 politics. Latino voters have moved from being counted out 11 to being courted. This has been possible because Latinos 12 are registering and voting in record numbers. Therefore, 13 candidates and campaigns need to pay more attention to the 14 concerns of Hispanic and Latino voters and that assumes 15 that they have their vote by speaking in general terms. 16 Loyalty and activism will follow from accountable 17 elected officials, not election politics and election day 18 promises. We must avoid falling through the trap of 19 creating voter dilution in the communities. The need to 20 avoid minority vote dilution should not only be a 21 compelling justification for the creating or creation of 22 minority -- majority-minority districts, but also helping 23 to protect the districts from Constitutional attack. 24 One State Representative district which we are going 25 to be watching very closely is State Representative DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p> <p>1 community and other minority communities as a whole. 2 We want to be allowed to work with you and your 3 consultants to create a fair and equitable redistricting 4 process -- 5 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Twenty seconds. 6 MR. SALDANA: -- as it affects the Hispanic community 7 and other minorities throughout the state of Florida. Our 8 objective is the creation of fair districts for Hispanics 9 and other minorities where Hispanics and other minority 10 groups may be fairly represented. 11 Which way the Hispanic/Latino vote swings in the 2002 12 and 2004 upcoming elections will be determined by the 13 attention the Legislature gives to Hispanics in the 14 redistricting process. 15 Thank you very much. 16 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 28. 17 MS. ORLANDO: Good afternoon, my name is Myra Orlando, 18 I live in unincorporated Palm Beach County. I'm within a 19 special district, Indian Trail Improvement District, I'm 20 part of The Acreage, my mailing address is Loxahatchee, I'm 21 in M2 West, Unit 6, Section 11. I chose to live in 22 unincorporated Palm Beach County because of the large lots, 23 the rural atmosphere, it is an exurban tier in our managed 24 growth system, but I did not choose not to be represented 25 by a State Representative or a U.S. Congressman. So I have DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p> <p>1 taken an active role in my community and in Palm Beach 2 County. 3 I am not here today to tell you how to redraw your 4 boundaries because I personally have to research it myself. 5 I have been on your web site, there is a wealth of 6 information, I am aware that you are going to be doing 7 E-mails and you have a software program that we can use. I 8 am hoping that with that information we will be able to 9 contact you later. I thank you for this opportunity to 10 come before you. 11 I am a historian by choice, I love the American 12 history. I have -- one of my favorite collections is the 13 Annals of American History. It has a lot of quotes from 14 the presidents. My son is in 10th grade so he is studying 15 the Lewis and Clark Expedition. So I went to my Annals and 16 I saw what President Jefferson wrote to Congress at that 17 time and what he also wrote to Mr. Lewis regarding his 18 expedition. And what I have come to find out after 19 studying history is not much has changed from what was then 20 to what is now. It is just the time. 21 I ran for State House last year, I ran in a district 22 that was highly Democratic. I ran for that seat because 23 that's where I live, and I felt that our area needed 24 representation. So it was a wonderful experience. I have 25 worked well, I think, with my elected officials on the DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p> <p>1 I do like to keep -- I am also chair of The Acreage 2 Education Committee and part of our duties is to educate 3 the adults as well as the children in our area. So any 4 information that is available we will be glad to pass out 5 through the community. 6 And thank you for your time. 7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 29. 8 DR. PRIORE: Good afternoon, members of the 9 redistricting public hearing committee. My name is Carmen 10 Priore, I'm the vice president of the Palm Beach County 11 League of Cities and also the chair of the legislative 12 committee. 13 The board of directors of the Palm Beach County League 14 of Cities, Incorporated, joins the Palm Beach County Board 15 of County Commissioners in officially recognizing and 16 thanking the Florida Legislature and, more specifically the 17 Palm Beach County delegation, both our Representatives and 18 our Senators, for the outstanding contributions and earnest 19 efforts made on behalf of the collective interests in Palm 20 Beach County and neighboring communities. 21 In no way would we intend to diminish or 22 underappreciate the good work these men and women have done 23 on our behalf by appearing before you today with our 24 resolution for the 2002 reapportionment process. 25 On behalf of the Palm Beach County League of Cities, DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p> <p>1 State Legislature, I have also worked well with my adjacent 2 city council people. 3 And the only thing I would like to suggest at this 4 time is that District 84 where I reside, The Acreage has 5 just a very small corner of District 85. And I saw that 6 District 84 needs seats or needs people, voters, and 7 District 85 needs to lose some. So perhaps when you are 8 looking at it, you could see that tiny little portion and 9 put it back into 84 with the rest of The Acreage area. 10 The rest, I basically feel that they should be compact 11 districts and that the best we can do is to make them so 12 that people feel that they have representation and that the 13 people that represent them are accessible. 14 And I think I have seen my Congress, my U.S. 15 Congressman once or twice. I am cut off of U.S. District 16 23, and I saw Congressman Alcee Hastings in Miami before I 17 moved to Palm Beach County. So I would like to have a 18 representative that would be in Palm Beach County. I do 19 talk to Representative, U.S. Congressman Foley because he 20 is closer to me geographically and has answered my calls. 21 So I do want to thank you. Like I said, if we can at 22 least have input through the web site and through any other 23 information that you make available, and I hope you will 24 receive it and keep it posted so we know what's going on. 25 And also if there are televised meetings, I do tune in and DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 69</p> <p>1 mirroring the request of the Palm Beach County, I stand now 2 to urge you to adopt an apportionment plan in which Palm 3 Beach County residents comprise a majority of the 4 constituency in the Senatorial and Representative districts 5 created. 6 Since the last census/reapportionment process Palm 7 Beach County has evolved into an intensely populated area 8 of unique, well-defined interests. Palm Beach County 9 deserves the most compact and inclusive districts that can 10 be drawn wholly within the geographical borders. 11 I will read to you now briefly the Resolution 12 No. 01-02 by title only for the record, and I will submit a 13 copy to you. And I thank you very much today for giving me 14 the opportunity to appear. You have a very difficult task 15 and I wish you-all good look. 16 Resolution No. 01-02, A resolution of Palm Beach 17 County League of Cities requesting the adoption of an 18 apportionment plan in which Palm Beach County residents 19 comprise a majority of the constituents in the Senatorial 20 and Representative districts created, directing the 21 resolution be forwarded to the Senate Reapportionment 22 Committee and the House Procedural and Redistricting 23 Council providing an effective date and for other purposes. 24 Thank you-all very much. 25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 30. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 70</p> <p>1 MR. REICHERT: Good afternoon, Chairman Webster, and 2 distinguished panel. I'd like to thank you for the 3 opportunity to speak with you, and especially I'd like to 4 thank those of you who travelled such a great distance from 5 as far away as you have.</p> <p>6 My name is Mike Reichert, I'm a resident of The Bluffs 7 in Jupiter. I am served by Representative Negron in House 8 District 82, Senator Pruitt in District 27, Congressman 9 Foley in House District 16.</p> <p>10 I'd like to ask you in this process to consider the 11 financial cost and wear and tear on the representatives of 12 oddly-shaped districts. I'm sure having traveled the 13 district last year from one end to the other, Senator 14 Pruitt also feels the same way and probably many of you 15 that have odd-shaped districts probably have this in your 16 hearts as well. But I would also like you to consider not 17 only the wear and tear on the individuals but also the 18 cost.</p> <p>19 For instance, in the Congressional district that 20 Congressman Foley has, he has three offices that he is 21 maintaining. And I would have to think that by eliminating 22 the need for extra offices in districts that would allow 23 the state and the federal government to cut the allocation 24 of the budget that's used for maintaining those offices.</p> <p>25 Also, I would just like to make the point while we DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 72</p> <p>1 complying with the spirit of the law. Why else wouldn't 2 you have convened at a time when working men and women 3 could be here to participate? So much for sunshine.</p> <p>4 But let's review some statistics. Earlier today we 5 heard a statement that state growth is something in the 6 area of 23.7 percent over the last ten years, based on 7 census data. And population growth in Palm Beach County 8 was 31 percent, ahead of that average. And Martin County, 9 just to the north of us, was around 25 percent.</p> <p>10 Now either Florida is in the middle of an incredible 11 baby boom or there are a lot of people moving here from 12 somewhere else. Now based on census data, a good number of 13 that population is coming from the northeast, the 14 enlightened and, thankfully, liberal Democratic north. My 15 point, gentlemen, is that over the next ten years your 16 state will more than likely see similar growth with people 17 moving here from the same regions that have fueled our 18 population, the aforementioned enlightened, liberal 19 Democratic north.</p> <p>20 I respectfully submit then to this committee that you 21 consider the possibility that no matter how you draw the 22 lines the migration to this state will ultimately undermine 23 your efforts since you cannot predict with any certainty 24 the effect of such migration in terms of long-term voting 25 records and voting trends.</p> <p>DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p> <p>1 have all of you here that the schools are in dire need in 2 the districts served by all of the aforementioned 3 representatives as well as throughout the rest of the 4 state, from what I have seen.</p> <p>5 And considering the school-age children in the 6 population when drawing the boundaries would show concern 7 for their needs. Children don't vote or can't vote so 8 their parents, grandparents and representatives must have 9 them in mind when they do vote.</p> <p>10 Thank you very much.</p> <p>11 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 31.</p> <p>12 MR. AVES: It shows how the times are changing. Ten 13 years ago I would have been here with a notepad and now I'm 14 here with a notebook computer.</p> <p>15 My name is Mike Aves, I'm a Palm Beach County 16 resident, and I'd like to thank you for taking the time in 17 the middle of a workday to hear us. It is a shame that 18 unlike our legislators who planned this event that more 19 working people did not have the luxury to take time off 20 from work to be here today.</p> <p>21 Although I do find it fitting that this meeting is 22 taking place in the theater. Obviously the Chairman and 23 his Republican colleagues understand the importance of 24 putting on a good show. Clearly this committee is 25 complying with the letter of the law, but by no means is it</p> <p>DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 73</p> <p>1 Maybe they will be Democratic, maybe they will be 2 Republican. We don't know. What we do know is that it is 3 your job to make certain that voices are heard and voters 4 are fairly represented.</p> <p>5 Now since this hearing is not taking questions, and 6 therefore it is not a truly interactive dialogue, I'd like 7 to ask all those who are here today who are either 8 registered as Democrats or Independents to please stand up 9 behind me.</p> <p>10 May I please ask that you stand if you are either 11 registered or a Democrat.</p> <p>12 All right, I'll take a show of hands.</p> <p>13 My point being that right now you guys are sitting in 14 probably one of the few bastions of Democratic strength in 15 this state. Time and time again the present GOP 16 legislators ignore the voices of the tricounty area. Well 17 you are in our backyard now, so you can't ignore us now. 18 The question is are you going to act on what you hear.</p> <p>19 Now this process needs to be in the interest of the 20 people and not the parties. I say this not only to the 21 chairman and his colleagues but also to Senator Klein and 22 his colleagues. You need to do what's right. And you need 23 to make decisions that are made and not merely perceived to 24 be in the interest of all the people.</p> <p>25 Now Ms. McCarty may try to put a positive spin on the DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 74</p> <p>1 events here today by commending you for not having a 2 prepared agenda and proposals for redistricting in advance. 3 And she may call it open, but let's look at her language 4 from her opening remarks. 5 Is she still here by any chance? Well I think that 6 also speaks volumes. 7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Twenty seconds. 8 MR. AVES: Ms. McCarty referred to a coastal area. 9 Coastal means Republican. Working families can't afford to 10 live in the Isle of Palm or Jupiter Island. And creating a 11 coastal district will benefit your party, but will it truly 12 benefit the people? Already based on your own comments and 13 before the lines have been drawn it seems that your agenda 14 is to grab more power, and with a 60 percent majority in 15 both houses, how much more would she have? 16 I will cut to the chase. Please, I beg your 17 indulgence. 18 My challenge to you, to all of you, is to do the 19 people's business and not the self-serving interests of any 20 one party. If you do, you will be able to prove to 21 yourselves as being, and I refer to my Republican 22 associates here, as being the party of Lincoln, the party 23 for the common man. You'll be able to show the people who 24 you really stand for and they will remember you at the 25 polls. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 76</p> <p>1 represent to me invisible walls, let's try and start 2 tearing down those walls. And let's start trying to do 3 things in a more spiritual manner to start bringing people 4 together. 5 Because it doesn't matter, it doesn't matter. You 6 don't have to be an African American to know that there is 7 a problem in our communities. You don't have to be an 8 African American to know that there are young boys who 9 excel on a football field and win state championship after 10 state championship but they can't pass the HSAT. You don't 11 have to be African American to know that. 12 You don't have to be Jewish to know that there is 13 something wrong with religious persecution. You don't have 14 to be Jewish to know that. 15 You don't have to be a female to know that there is 16 something wrong when a man takes advantage and abuses a 17 female. You don't have to be, you don't have to be 18 anything except human. And that's the race that I am 19 concerned about today, the human race. 20 It is time for all of us to elevate our thinking, our 21 consciousness and most importantly to think about the 57 22 percent of the population that was alluded to where I live. 23 Children who cannot vote, but if they could, they would be 24 here telling you, I want to be able one day to grow up to 25 be anything that I want to be. That's the message that I DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 75</p> <p>1 On the other hand, if you do not and you draw these 2 lines according to the self-serving interests of your 3 party, again, the people will remember you at the polls. 4 And we are going to start with the Governor's mansion. 5 Thank you. 6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: No. 32. 7 MR. HARRIS: Good evening. 6:00 o'clock, good 8 evening. Are you awake up there? 9 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Good evening. 10 MR. HARRIS: My name is, title is Reverend Richard 11 Harris. I'm a country preacher from the aforementioned, 12 alluded to western community of Belle Glade. 13 Ladies and gentlemen, first question, why are we here? 14 Answer, who really cares? Let me say to all of you it is 15 time to put the public back in republic. This nation is a 16 republic, democratic republic. It is time to put the 17 public back in republic. 18 As you sit here and we stand before you and we ask you 19 to be fair, nonpartisan, let's deal with reality. If I'm 20 sitting in your position, whether I'm a Democrat, 21 Republican or Independent, I'm going to protect my 22 position. That's the reality. Let's deal with that. 23 So rather than sit here today and talk about what's 24 best for this party, that party, this segment or that 25 segment, and be so concerned about drawing lines, which DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 77</p> <p>1 bring to you now. 2 Make sure as you create these districts -- because it 3 is going to be a dogfight, let's face the reality. Let's 4 face the reality. It is going to be a dogfight. If we sit 5 here and stand here and think it is going to be an easy 6 ride, then you are in for a rude awakening. It is going to 7 be a dogfight. Rather than let's all argue and fight over 8 a few bones, let's try to make sure there is enough food 9 there for everybody so at least we will all be fat dogs 10 when it is all over. 11 Ladies and gentlemen, the appeal, the challenge, very 12 difficult though it may be, is not really difficult at all. 13 It is not about who is right, it is about what is right. 14 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: No. 33. 15 MS. ABRAMS: Hi, I am Joann Abrams, I'm a resident of 16 the western community which is comprised of The Acreage, 17 unincorporated Palm Beach County, also where we are lumped 18 in with Wellington, which has some common interests with 19 us, and we also are lumped in with Royal Palm Beach. We 20 have no problem with that. 21 However, the problem we do have is that there are 22 certain issues that are very particular to our area, the 23 issue of growth and development. We have a lot of 24 agricultural properties out there, we are semirural. There 25 are some areas that are rural. We also have a large DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 78</p> <p>1 equestrian population in The Acreage and in Wellington. 2 And basically although Hank Harper is doing a terrific 3 job for us, ten years ago we did not have the population 4 out there. Our population has increased approximately 30 5 to 40 percent. Combined with Wellington and Royal Palm 6 Beach and The Acreage we now have about 70- to 100,000 7 people. 8 We are also being pushed, The Acreage in particular is 9 being pushed by people who run our improvement district. 10 They were not elected by the people, by one man, one vote, 11 they were elected by the large landowners. They are trying 12 to push us into incorporation without a referendum. Some 13 of us really don't appreciate it. 14 And we would really like our own House Rep out there. 15 Our district, Wellington, Royal Palm and The Acreage has 16 four House Reps and I believe two Senators. And we also 17 have a very diverse population. It is racially mixed. We 18 also have a very large senior population, whose needs are 19 pretty much ignored. They have no transportation 20 whatsoever out there. I work a lot with seniors as an 21 attorney, do a lot of elder law. 22 And basically I just want to point out to you guys and 23 ladies to please consider a House seat that includes people 24 in the western part of Palm Beach County that will consider 25 our specific and unique issues. Thank you. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 80</p> <p>1 think that that's part of what you people have to get. 2 And the Reverend was right. Everybody knows it is 3 going to be a dogfight up there to cover themselves. 4 Nobody wants to lose their job and nobody wants to put 5 themselves out. But if the voters see that, everybody is 6 going to go. I thank you. 7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 35. 8 MR. MURPHY: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, and 9 committee members. My name is Martin Murphy, I live at 10 1071 Grand Bahama on Rivera Beach, Florida. I'm here today 11 representing myself and the Marine Industry Association of 12 Florida, and the Marine Industry Association of Palm Beach 13 County. 14 The Marine Industry Association of Palm Beach County 15 is one of the 12 sister associations of the state 16 association. In Florida, our annual state association 2000 17 report represents that our association has 2000 18 marine-related businesses with an employment impact of over 19 180,000 jobs, and an industry equal to \$14.2 billion of 20 economic impact for our great state. 21 Just a point of interest, that's over twice of what 22 the citrus industry is. I really don't know why we say 23 that, but it gets more attention when we do say it. 24 We find it desirable to continue as a coastal 25 Congressional district. Existing District 22 is DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 79</p> <p>1 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 34. 2 MR. SACHS: Arnold Sachs, I'm also a resident of the 3 western communities. I'm not going to stand here and 4 repeat what everybody has said, but we do have a problem 5 out there. Hank Harper has been great, but we do need 6 someone to represent the western communities, and not split 7 between the east and the west. The western communities 8 have problems of their own, which are much different than 9 on the eastern side. 10 We are first going through what maybe the east, west 11 went through 10, 15 years ago. The growth is happening, 12 there are people who are pushing for incorporation, we need 13 one person to cover this geographical area. And I think 14 you guys have to look at this. 15 I think one of the things that one man said before 16 was, when you redistrict, redistrict by geographical area. 17 And we have heard the Democrats want to keep their seats, 18 the Republicans want to keep their seats, every special 19 interest has been here to say, We want to keep, you know, 20 we want to keep our elected official because they are 21 taking care of us. 22 Well, you know, one person did say one thing, which 23 is, the person who is elected who takes care of his 24 constituency will be elected again. Whether it is 25 Republican or Democrat, they will be elected again. And I DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 81</p> <p>1 characteristic of the true coastline district, serving 2 southeast Florida, coastlines from the middle of Dade-Miami 3 County, Miami Beach to Palm Beach County, Juno Beach. It 4 also includes two of our major deep water ports and 5 60 miles of the most important thing to the marine 6 industry, the Intracoastal Waterway. 7 It encompasses -- all of this encompasses portions in 8 Miami, Dade County, Broward County, Palm Beach County, 9 truly called southeast Florida's Gold Coast. 10 We suggest your redistricting District 22 as the area 11 east of the Intracoastal to the Atlantic coastline from 12 this area, Miami Beach to Juno. If additional areas are 13 required to fill the census numbers, the multicity area 14 along the coastline is an ideal place to cross the western 15 Intracoastal Waterway as the maps have done in the past. 16 This is a cohesive real estate area and by using the 17 Intracoastal Waterway as a guideline, governmental entities 18 which traverse easterly will be represented by 19 multi-congressional members to represent them. 20 I thank you for your time, patience mostly, from the 21 marine industry. 22 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 36 is withdrawn. 23 No. 37. 24 MS. LePORE: Good evening. My name is Theresa LePore, 25 I'm the supervisor of elections for Palm Beach County. And DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 82</p> <p>1 welcome to Palm Beach County. I'm also president-elect of 2 the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections 3 so I'm coming to you from a totally different angle than 4 the rest of the speakers today.</p> <p>5 Palm Beach County, as I'm sure you-all know, is the 6 largest governmental entity this side of the Mississippi 7 River. It is very large. We have 37 municipalities in our 8 county. The majority of our municipalities have more than 9 one representative, whether it is Congressional, State 10 House, State Senate; meaning, they either have more than 11 one Congressional representative, more than one State 12 Senate, more than one State House.</p> <p>13 We also have a lot of areas that -- areas of community 14 interest that are actually cut up by redistricting. This 15 will be my fourth redistricting, reapportionment. I 16 started in the elections office in 1971 when I was six 17 years old (Laughter) so I have seen a lot. And every ten 18 years it gets worse and worse as far as the arguing, the 19 fighting, the cutting up of the districts, and the delay in 20 getting the information back to those of us that need to 21 make it work, if you will.</p> <p>22 Making it works means getting the information ready 23 for the candidates and the voters of the county. With all 24 your extension time lines and lawsuit time lines and 25 federal guidelines and everything, if we wait until the DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 84</p> <p>1 precincts. This means we have to find homes or polling 2 locations for those precincts, which is not an easy job. 3 We need to find poll workers for those precincts.</p> <p>4 We need to get the information out to the voters, what 5 precincts they are in and where they are supposed to go. 6 All this takes time to get that information out.</p> <p>7 So I would implore all of you to make every effort you 8 can -- and I know it is very difficult, I just have Palm 9 Beach County to cut up, you have got the whole state to 10 do -- but to do the best you can to get it done as soon as 11 possible, to get us the information so that we can get it 12 out to our voters and to our candidates.</p> <p>13 Just a couple examples of the many examples of areas 14 of community interest that are cut up. I have a very small 15 trailer park --</p> <p>16 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Twenty seconds.</p> <p>17 MS. LePORE: -- that's just north of us. The streets, 18 the House district line runs in between the streets. On 19 one side of the street they are in one State House 20 district, across the street they are in another. And this 21 trailer park has about 50 trailers in it. We have district 22 lines that run through condominiums. So just whatever you 23 can to keep the communities of interest, municipalities all 24 together. Thank you.</p> <p>25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 38. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 83</p> <p>1 very end, which puts it close to July, mid July, you have 2 got qualifying right behind that.</p> <p>3 Not only is it difficult for the elections 4 supervisors, and believe me we are not afraid to work, and 5 we are not afraid to spend the time that it needs to put 6 into redistricting our jurisdictions, but the time we need 7 to make it work, especially in large counties, re-precinct 8 everything, get the information out to the candidates, the 9 candidates that have to campaign, they don't know where 10 they are campaigning, they don't know what voters are in 11 their district until the very last minute.</p> <p>12 And also for the voters, to get the information to the 13 voters. Voters during the reapportionment process are very 14 confused. We in Palm Beach County, and I know in a lot of 15 other counties around the state, mail new voter 16 registration cards out to the voters, in addition to a lot 17 of other materials that we send out that most of the time 18 get thrown in with the junk mail. They show up at the 19 wrong precinct to vote and, you know, the rest is history 20 as they say.</p> <p>21 Also, in doing the other things, behind-the-scenes 22 things, that it takes to put on an election. I mentioned 23 drawing new precinct lines. We currently have 530 24 precincts in the county. After reapportionment and judging 25 from history, we are looking to probably have about 700 DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 85</p> <p>1 MS. JOSEPH: Good evening. My name is Joan Joseph, 2 I'm a resident of Jupiter, Florida, and an active member of 3 the Democratic Party of Palm Beach County. And thank you 4 for allowing me to speak to you tonight.</p> <p>5 My message is short, and perhaps more philosophical 6 than most. I hope that as you travel through this 7 difficult journey that you have chosen called 8 redistricting, that you will never forget and never lose 9 sight of the true meaning of the essence of fairness. I 10 hope that simply put fairness means to you recognizing and 11 representing the needs of all people in the districts that 12 you draw equally and equitably. I hope that fairness means 13 to you that in drawing these district lines you share -- 14 you draw them so that people will share the same issues and 15 concerns, and that the representatives of these districts 16 will be truly able to contact you and find you accessible.</p> <p>17 And finally, I hope that fairness in making these 18 districts means to you drawing them more compact so that 19 they will be more manageable to all of us. Thank you.</p> <p>20 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: No. 39.</p> <p>21 MR. MANNING: Good evening. My name is John Manning. 22 I'm a little bit different than most of the other people 23 here today. I am the executive editor of the Town Crier 24 newspaper which serves Wellington, Royal Palm Beach, 25 Loxahatchee, and The Acreage. I have a reporter here DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 86</p> <p>1 that's actually covering this. They usually chain me to my 2 desk on Wednesday and don't let me out, however, I escaped 3 and so I am here today. Thank you for taking some time to 4 hear my comments.</p> <p>5 As a newspaper editor, I know more than most of the 6 wide-reaching effects of the decisions that will be made 7 between now and the end of the special legislative session 8 on redistricting next winter. My point here today is to 9 comment both as a citizen and as a leader in Palm Beach 10 County's western communities of Wellington, Royal Palm 11 Beach, Loxahatchee and The Acreage.</p> <p>12 I have attached here, and I handed this all in to the 13 wonderful lady up from when I signed in so you-all have 14 this, a series of editorials that we have written in the 15 newspaper about this process starting in July of 2000, over 16 a year ago, "Keep a Sharp Eye on the Redistricting 17 Process," followed to July of this year when this hearing 18 was announced, "Redistricting Plan Takes Shape," and then 19 last week, "Make Plans to Attend the Redistricting 20 Hearing."</p> <p>21 This talks about the importance of the redistricting 22 process to shape the communities that we represent. I 23 believe quite clearly that they reflect our opinion 24 regarding the need for district lines to be drawn with more 25 consideration to the fastest-growing communities in Palm DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 88</p> <p>1 Also, we feel it is imperative that Wellington be placed in 2 a more local Senate district as opposed to being lumped 3 into a district based in southern Broward County. Although 4 I have met Senator Geller, he is a very nice person, he is 5 not in the Wellington area on a regular basis more than 6 once or twice a year.</p> <p>7 As far as the U.S. Congress is concerned I just need 8 to point out that I have never seen Representative Hastings 9 in Wellington or Royal Palm Beach, even though he does have 10 thousands of constituents in the area. I do not mean to 11 attack Representative Hastings. He has a huge district 12 which is all over southern Florida. Perhaps a more 13 centrally located district would be better.</p> <p>14 I understand that not all of this will be possible, 15 but I thank you for any attempts that can be made, and 16 thank you very much for hearing my talk.</p> <p>17 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 40.</p> <p>18 MS. EMIHOVICH: Good evening, my name is Miriam 19 Emihovich, and I live obviously in Palm Beach County. I am 20 also someone who works with the homeless and the indigent 21 and have advocated for them in this county.</p> <p>22 And I would like to join with others who have spoken 23 before me in urging you support and adopt the issues 24 outlined in the statement on fairness presented to you in 25 Tallahassee at the first public hearing. Rather than DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 87</p> <p>1 Beach County and in South Florida.</p> <p>2 Currently I understand there are many communities 3 across this state that share similar concerns. But ten 4 years ago I believe a great disservice was done to the 5 western communities when what was a much smaller area back 6 then was broken up into four different State House 7 districts, none of which are based in the western 8 communities.</p> <p>9 Now I have of course met and spoken with each of the 10 sitting Representatives and they are all fine people. I 11 notice that Representative Gannon is here today and 12 Representative Machek. Mr. Machek in particular has been 13 quite active in Wellington issues since he was elected last 14 year, and I thank you for that.</p> <p>15 However, we feel that a single seat centered in the 16 western communities will be of more benefit than having 17 four Representatives each with a small fraction of the 18 area. It is highly unlikely that anybody who lives in the 19 western communities would be elected to the State House. 20 We are of course very, very fortunate that Senator Rossin 21 calls an area very near the western communities his home 22 and we see him very, very often.</p> <p>23 When it comes to the State Senate, we fully support 24 the Palm Beach County legislative delegation's call for 25 more Senate districts based inside Palm Beach County. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 89</p> <p>1 repeating that which has already been said, I would like to 2 focus on the importance of holding at least a few regional 3 hearings to report back to us after you have adopted 4 criteria for drawing districts and after you have actually 5 developed some maps.</p> <p>6 We realize that the Legislature will be meeting in 7 Tallahassee in January, and the public will have an 8 opportunity, as it always does, to participate in committee 9 hearings. However, as you know, it is very difficult and 10 very expensive, especially for those that I represent, and 11 for many people to travel to Tallahassee in order to 12 participate in this process.</p> <p>13 This is such an important process that it is important 14 for as many people as possible to have an opportunity to 15 respond to what you do with the information you are 16 currently in the process of gathering.</p> <p>17 As has always been pointed out -- as has already been 18 pointed out, it is the people who live in communities that 19 will be the best informed on what their community is 20 interested in and how it will be affected by lines that 21 have been drawn.</p> <p>22 Thank you for your time, and this opportunity to speak 23 to you, and good luck.</p> <p>24 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. No. 41.</p> <p>25 MS. LARAMORE: Good afternoon. My name is Cynthia DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 90</p> <p>1 Campbell Laramore, I am a project coordinator for Active 2 Citizens Together Improving Our Neighborhoods, the acronym 3 is ACTION. We are based in Belle Glade and we serve the 4 communities of Belle Glade, Pahokee, and South Bay as 5 community advocates and provide community education 6 opportunities to the residents regarding various issues; 7 one principally is the uplands restoration as well as 8 student achievement are our focus areas.</p> <p>9 I almost feel like saying welcome to the club to the 10 western communities of Palm Beach County. It was not until 11 the last draw of the redistricting that the communities, 12 western Palm Beach County, I'm kind of understanding what 13 the difference is now, were ever able to have black 14 representation. For my entire life and the lives of my 15 parents, except for a special district that was carved out 16 in the county commission as a low-income minority community 17 we never had anyone to carry our voice forward in any level 18 of government.</p> <p>19 So welcome to the club. It is a frustrating club, but 20 it is a club that we as communities that are on the shores 21 of Lake Okeechobee refuse to join again. We are not 22 willing to be a community where our representation, our 23 concerns and our voices are muffled because people now have 24 that experience.</p> <p>25 When I look at these maps, and I'm not sure if I am DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 92</p> <p>1 community --</p> <p>2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Twenty seconds.</p> <p>3 MS. LARAMORE: -- we are a federal community, we are a 4 community controlled by comprehensive Everglades 5 restoration, the Cuban embargo, the sugar price supports, 6 and immigration laws. So we are a federal community. And 7 to have our voice lost again because some communities find 8 out what that experience is is not acceptable. It is not a 9 plea that I am making, it is a caution that I am presenting 10 to this committee as you sit down and redraw your lines.</p> <p>11 Thanks.</p> <p>12 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. That's all the 13 appearance cards we have. And it has been our custom, we 14 would like Senators or Representatives who would like to 15 make remarks, we will start first with those members of the 16 delegation in this region and if you will just let me know 17 if you want to speak I will be glad to recognize you.</p> <p>18 Senator Klein.</p> <p>19 SENATOR KLEIN: Thank you, thank you, Mr. Chairman. 20 On behalf of the Palm Beach County legislative delegation, 21 and I think you heard there are a number of us here today, 22 I would like to thank all the participants, those of you 23 who stayed and those who have already left and presented 24 your opinions.</p> <p>25 Those of us who live in this community understand the DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 91</p> <p>1 happy or glad that you don't have graphic presentations, 2 things here for us to see, because I'd like for you to go 3 back when you review the transcript or if you listen to the 4 tape to understand what was defined to you as the western 5 communities. It defined the only three municipalities as 6 Lake Okeechobee, and the developments as the communities of 7 Pahokee, South Bay and Belle Glade are all incorporated 8 within Palm Beach County and are a part of the 37 9 municipalities that Ms. LePore just mentioned.</p> <p>10 But when I understand that people who choose to be 11 outside of a city structure or governance then want to 12 usurp that position by classifying themselves as if they 13 were legitimate municipalities, because they weren't 14 presented in the way that would say, We decided that we 15 don't want to be a part of this, Ibis, Loxahatchee, 16 Loxahatchee Groves. And those are people who have decided 17 that they don't want any intermediary government.</p> <p>18 We are participating in our local government, we 19 participate in our state and our federal. When you pull 20 voting statistics, especially around our municipal election 21 times, even though it is low, the residents of our 22 communities participate very well in their municipal 23 elections. So when we come to other levels -- and we can 24 get some type of local voice, but when it comes to our 25 problems being, and our concerns, outside of our DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 93</p> <p>1 tremendous growth, the fact that we are the third largest 2 county in the state, the fact that although we have ten 3 delegation members, ten House members, six Senate members, 4 that we are an extremely diverse community with tremendous 5 growth, a tremendous number of varying issues, very diverse 6 populations. And that there is a very broad-based goal to 7 make sure that we have as many people in the Legislature 8 that live and work and understand the issues from Palm 9 Beach County's perspective up in Tallahassee and up in 10 Washington.</p> <p>11 And that's not to say that we have some tremendous 12 colleagues sitting up here, my colleagues to the left and 13 right of me here that have done a great job who may not 14 live in Palm Beach County but represent parts of Palm Beach 15 County, but it is a goal I believe for this community, and 16 I heard it over and over again today, to make sure that we 17 have as many people from a performance point of view and 18 when elected that their districts are majority based in 19 Palm Beach County so that we have broad representation.</p> <p>20 I think also another thing that I heard today and, you 21 know, I certainly will be advocating for this, is the 22 interest of having additional hearings certainly in this 23 area and throughout the state after the presentations of 24 some initial proposals are brought forward so that those of 25 you who can't travel to Tallahassee, which is not exactly DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 94</p> <p>1 convenient from here, I know those of us that have to 2 travel back and forth it is not -- it is expensive and it 3 is time-consuming, but that we want to do everything we can 4 to bring this back to you so you can feel you have an 5 opportunity to participate all the way through the end of 6 the process, either in person or through any other way. 7 And that we want to certainly encourage that. 8 But, again, we are very grateful that you took time 9 out of your busy days today to be here with us, to extend 10 your opinions to us. And we will certainly do everything 11 we can to make sure that your opinions are part of this 12 process. But stay with it, it is a multi-month process 13 that's going to go well into next year. And we are very 14 interested in continuing to hear from you. 15 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 16 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Okay. Representative Harper. 17 REPRESENTATIVE HARPER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would 18 also like to concur with the comments that Senator Klein 19 has made and thank all of you for making this a priority in 20 your schedule to be here with us this evening. 21 Mr. Chair, in the spirit of your direction to our 22 constituents that are here today to propose any questions 23 that they may have about the process to their individual 24 Representatives or Senators, do we have some type of 25 criteria that we can follow as Representatives and Senators DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 96</p> <p>1 committees will do that. 2 And as a legislator here in Palm Beach County if there 3 are questions anyone wants to ask me, I'll do everything 4 that I can when in home or in Tallahassee to come up with 5 some sort of answer, particularly as this process goes 6 forward. It is a learning process for a lot of us also. 7 It is not something we can open up this book and just read 8 it out and make everything work. It all has to be taken 9 back and put together and sorted through. So as we learn 10 the process, I'm sure that myself and my other colleagues 11 will certainly pass that back to our constituents. 12 But, again, I want to thank you for coming. 13 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Representative Gannon. 14 REPRESENTATIVE GANNON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 15 First, I want to thank the committee chair and the 16 leadership in the House because Senator Klein and I did 17 work very hard to get an additional hearing in south Palm 18 Beach County due to the elder issues that our communities 19 face and I-95, which is basically a demolition derby at 20 this time -- but hopefully Representative Slosberg will 21 save us from that. Well, he is working very hard on that. 22 I want to thank you. 23 But I also believe that with all of the people sitting 24 at this table and our brainpower that we can figure out a 25 way to allow our constituents additional input after the DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 95</p> <p>1 within our specific districts to respond to these 2 constituents that have already begun asking us questions, 3 even during the intermission period today so that we can 4 follow up with them with some accurate information and 5 concise information. 6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Are you asking me a question? 7 REPRESENTATIVE HARPER: Yes, sir. 8 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: You are a member of the 9 Legislature, I'm a member of the Legislature; I have one 10 vote, you have one vote. You have all of the ability that 11 I have. I have been appointed as Chairman but that doesn't 12 make my vote count any more than anybody else's. And so 13 you should use everything within your means as a member to 14 answer your constituents. 15 Yes, Representative Machek. 16 REPRESENTATIVE MACHEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I also 17 want to thank everybody for coming today. I think Palm 18 Beach County has spoken well today and we do have one more 19 hearing tomorrow in south Palm Beach County. 20 It is a unique county, it has a tremendous population, 21 and it has tremendously grown in the last ten years to 22 something that we probably didn't figure would ever happen 23 but it has. And it is going to be very difficult for the 24 redistricting committees to divide this county up to take 25 care of everybody's wishes, but I'm sure that these DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 97</p> <p>1 maps are drawn so that we can actually take that input back 2 to Tallahassee. And whether it is by delegation and the 3 leadership participating or how we do it, I believe that 4 there is a way that we can do that. 5 And, please, because my district is about 15 percent 6 minority, and Haitian-Americans there are about 6 or 7 7 percent, not everyone has a computer. And please don't 8 everyone think that, and they are not always accessible to 9 people in my district. And for us to easily say, Oh, they 10 can get it on the Internet, frankly many of my constituents 11 particularly in the Haitian community, there is a language 12 barrier, as I'm sure there is in many areas in Dade County. 13 And I think it is critical that we have, we allow our 14 constituents as much input into this process. And also 15 after the maps are drawn to comment on the effects that 16 these maps are going to have on their communities of 17 interest and their condominiums and all of those issues. 18 And I would suggest that collectively we can figure out a 19 way to do that so that everyone can have an opportunity to 20 comment on the maps. Thank you. 21 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Senator Sanderson. 22 SENATOR SANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, 23 would like to thank you and the committee, and welcome to 24 the area, and to the people who are out in the audience and 25 those that have already left. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 98</p> <p>1 I am one of those legislators who resides in another 2 county, I happen to live in Fort Lauderdale, and I have 3 very much enjoyed representing the people that live in Palm 4 Beach County. They have been very good to me, I have 5 represented the area of Boca Raton for eight years, since 6 1992. I am a 20-year legislator.</p> <p>7 And I think that there are many areas that have 8 commonality, and I think sometimes it is in the eye of the 9 beholder when we start to look at what the criteria are for 10 areas of interest.</p> <p>11 And as a member of this committee these are the types 12 of issues that I keep in mind and will keep in mind as we 13 go forward in our deliberations. We don't have any maps 14 today to show you, they don't have any for us to look at 15 either. So this is a process that we are going to go 16 through together. And I think we can do this with calm 17 heads.</p> <p>18 We have a lot of collective brainpower here at this 19 table and on this committee and with a fine staff. And I 20 think that we are going to come up with some maps that will 21 please most of the people. We know that in all things you 22 are never going to please all the people all the time, but 23 I think it is important that your input be there. We 24 appreciate you coming to the hearing this afternoon and 25 hope to see some of you again tomorrow afternoon.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 100</p> <p>1 we can do a little bit better about that in the future.</p> <p>2 I am concerned with the citizens' questions as well.</p> <p>3 I think that many people here have voiced their concerns 4 and I don't have the answers. And, yes, sir, Mr. Chairman, 5 you are one member; however, you are the chairman, and you 6 establish the guidelines, and we don't have any.</p> <p>7 And this is the first time in history that we have 8 technology as citizens to fully participate in this program 9 of redistricting. We have programs on computers, but we 10 can't move with those programs because we absolutely don't 11 know what the guidelines are or what the deviations are or 12 what the rules are going to be in the future.</p> <p>13 And you, Mr. Chairman, stated directly that the 14 guidelines would only be established after these public 15 hearings had concluded. That provides, I think, the 16 constituents I am equally as a House member elected to 17 serve a lot of heartburn. And I hope that there is 18 reconsideration for that in the future.</p> <p>19 I hope that you consider the traditional communities 20 of interest as well as the traditional voting patterns 21 because that is a portion of the law, and the incumbents 22 who have worked very hard, as you heard by some of our 23 constituents, to understand their constituents' concerns 24 and to protect those incumbencies that have worked so hard 25 for their citizens.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 99</p> <p>1 But this is how we learn. And we hear from you what 2 is most important to you and that's what we have to take 3 into our deliberations. So we thank you very much for your 4 time.</p> <p>5 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.</p> <p>6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Are there other members 7 of the delegation? You can come up here if you want to or 8 you can be recognized there. You are recognized.</p> <p>9 REPRESENTATIVE BUCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I 10 appreciate the opportunity to address the committee and the 11 other members who are sitting up here. I sat out here as a 12 member of the public today, and I do not believe that our 13 constituents and the citizens of Palm Beach County have 14 proper representation in this process.</p> <p>15 I have concern because I found that there was 16 substantial lack of notice for these meetings that we are 17 having in Palm Beach County. I recall seeing a notice in 18 the Palm Beach Post in English only once. And when I drove 19 up to this facility today, the gate entrance to come into 20 this facility was locked, and there were no signs outside 21 posted.</p> <p>22 And perhaps you come from different areas of the 23 state, but my constituents that I serve here are 24 substantially elders, and there is a diverse group of 25 minorities, and I was a little bit disappointed. So I hope</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 101</p> <p>1 I appreciate the opportunity to address this 2 committee. Thank you very much.</p> <p>3 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Are there other members that would 4 like to address the citizens?</p> <p>5 (No response.)</p> <p>6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Okay, the meeting is adjourned. 7 (Hearing adjourned at 6:40 p.m.)</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA:

County OF LEON:

I, JULIE L. DOHERTY, Court Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing proceedings and that the transcript is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes.

DATED this ____ day of _____, 2001.

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